LOVE CONTROL
恋愛操作

Pride and ego are the first to go in a relationship, they say.
But pride is what talented interior designer Kei Yamashiro has in abundance, while ego is what his client, Takashi Okumura, has more than enough of. Will they ever get along?

What if Okumura decides to complicate things even more by openly flirting with the always serious Yamashiro? With his pride telling him to not back down from a challenge, Yamashiro decides to play Okumura's game and turn it against him he schemes to have his client fall for him and then break his heart. But what if karma strikes and it's Yamashiro who does the falling? Will his pride allow him to acknowledge his feelings?

It's control freak Yamashiro versus control freak Okumura. Will one back down and relinquish Love Control?

MANGA / DRAMA / ROMANCE
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LOVE CONTROL

恋愛操作

AI HASUKAWA

PARENTAL EXPLICIT CONTENT ADVISORY

June

Yaoi Manga

LOVE CONTROL

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RECEPTION AREA
応接室
HE'S THE REPRESENTATIVE HERE AT JIRI GROUP.
OUR CLIENT IS TAKASHI OKUMURA.
THEY HAVE SEVERAL DOZEN CAFES AND BARS IN ADDITION TO THEIR ITALIAN RESTAURANT "JIRI."
THEY'RE KNOWN FOR PRODUCING A CERTAIN AMBIENCE IN A PLACE.
AND WE HAVE BEEN HIRED TO REMODEL "JIRI".
THAT'S YOUR JOB, YAMASHIRO-KUN.
THEY SAW THE BAR YOU DESIGNED IN ROPPONGI AND REALLY LIKED IT.
WELL? ARE YOU READY FOR THE PRESENTATION?
I HEAR THEY'RE THINKING OF HAVING SHINJIN TAKAMIYA DO THE FURNISHINGS.
KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME.
OF COURSE.

YOU'RE MORE SLENDER AND BEAUTIFUL THAN I EXPECTED.
JUST MY TYPE.
LOVE CONTROL
恋愛操作
れんあい
コントロール
FIRST PART
前編

YOU CAN CALL ME "OWNER" IF YOU LIKE.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, DIRECTOR. I'M SUGIMOTO.
THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE CALLS ME AT THE RESTAURANT. DIRECTOR JUST SOUNDS SO STIFF.
SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOU WAIT.
I'M OKUMURA, JIRI'S REPRESENTATIVE.
AND A WOMAN AS LOVELY AS YOU OUGHT TO BE CALLED BY HER FIRST NAME.
KEI YAMASHIRO ISN'T IT?
SHOW OFF.
HIS EYES ARE SO PALE.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM
I HAVE TO BE FIRM HERE, OR -
HE'S A RECKLESS AND INTENSE MAN.
MY, MY...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

...THIS IS YAMA-SHIRO.
YAMASHIRO-SAN, YOU HAVE A CALL FROM DIRECTOR OKUMURA!
...
AH, I FINALLY GET TO HEAR YOUR VOICE.
I WASN'T ABLE TO REACH YOU ON YOUR CELL.
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
HOW ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT?
...I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE PLANS UNTIL 7.
THEN LET'S HAVE A DRINK AT 9.
I'LL EMAIL YOU THE NAME OF THE BAR. SEE YOU TONIGHT.
CLICK
WHAT? HELLO?!
BEEP BEEP

RRR
SUGIMOTO LIFE DESIGN OFFICES.
YES, KOSHIKABE IS HANDLING THE STONE.
THE DESIGN IS FINISHED, IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK.
YES, UNTIL TOMORROW.
CLICK
Pi Pi Pi
RRR
YES, SUGIMOTO LIFE -
JUST A MO-MENT.
NOTHING.
WHAT WAS THAT?
...
CLICK OFF
Pi Pi Pi
着信中
海霧 奥村
INCOMING CALL
JIRI OKUMURA

HE REALLY LIKES YOU.
NE'S A GOOD CLIENT - YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF HIM.
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.
YOU USUALLY GO ALONG WITH JOKES LIKE THAT.
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW UP ON YOUR WORK.
BUT STILL...
I AM.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN PRIVATE MEETINGS.
ESPECIALLY AFTER HIM CALLING ME "BEAUTIFUL" AT OUR FIRST MEETING.
...IT'S NOT A MATTER OF GOING ALONG WITH IT.
I DON'T LIKE NIS TYPE.
I CAN'T CONVERSE WITH HIM ON MY OWN TERMS.
...HE DOESN'T LISTEN TO ANYTHING I SAY.
I HATE BEING AT A DISADVANTAGE.
NE'S SO CHILDISH.
THE REASON HE CHOSE TAKAMIYA WAS SO HE COULD TEASE ME WITH HIM AND THAT KID AZUMI-KUN.

DIRECTOR OKUMURA SURE IS WONDERFUL!
...AGAIN.
DON'T IGNORE ME...!
HIKARI! SLAM
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
BUT NE'S AT LEAST 15 YEARS OLDER THAN YOU, MAKO-CHAN.
ESPECIALLY THOSE HONEY-COLORED EYES! ♥
SHE'LL NEVER LOVE US, FOR SURE.
NOW THAT'S LOVE.
AGE MEANS NOTHING IF YOU HAVE MONEY!

WE FINISHED OUR WORK WITH JIRI ANYWAY.
HE'S NOT CALLING ON BUSINESS, HE JUST WANTS TO "CHAT".
AND YOU, YAMASHIRO-KUN? THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO A CUSTOMER!
ENOUGH, KAJI-KUN.
THAT ATTITUDE BORDERS ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT...!
SMACK

I THOUGHT I SAW A SLENDER BEAUTY WALK IN, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE YOU.
EVERYONE WAS LOOKING AT YOU WHEN YOU CAME IN.
HMM ...
IT LOOKS NORMAL AFTER ALL.
SOME KIND OF MEMBERS ONLY BAR MAYBE?
YAMA-SHIRO-KUN.
YOU SHOULD TALK.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT STANDS OUT.

WHAT KIND OF BUILDING IS THIS?
THE FLOORS AREN'T EVEN LABELED.
THE SECOND CORNER...
HERE?
WELCOME TO THE TOP FLOOR.
STEP
IT BETTER NOT BE SOME-THING INDECENT.
WELCOME.
ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOUR COAT.

I CAN'T HELP THAT THOSE CONFIDENT EYES OF HIM MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE.
...HE'S A SHREWD MAN.
HO, IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
THE REAL PROBLEM IS...

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS PLACE? DO YOU LIKE IT?
AH, YES?
SHIT...WHY ME?
WHY DO I HAVE TO GET JERKED AROUND BY THIS GUY...?!
YAMA-SHIRO-KUN.
ARE THERE OTHER HIDDEN PLACES LIKE THIS?
NO, JUST THIS ONE.
ONE HIDDEN RETREAT ... ...IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
IT'S A NICE PLACE.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, I'D SAY IT WAS MEMBERS ONLY.
WELL, "A HIDDEN BAR" IS PART OF THE CONCEPT. EVEN THE ADDRESS IS LISTED PRIVATELY.
HA HA HA!
BUT IT'S NOT ENTIRELY EXCLUSIVE.
ANYWAY, I DIDN'T INVITE YOU HERE JUST TO SHOW YOU THE PLACE.
SHOW-OFF.

A SMALL PRICE, TO GET A KISS FROM YOU.
HAVING NO REASON TO ACCEPT A KISS FROM YOU, I'LL PASS.
STOMP
OOPS.
...AND IF YOU SUGGEST IT AGAIN, I'LL STOMP ALL OVER THOSE GATTO SHOES OF YOURS.
SMILE
I FEEL PRETTY PROUD, BEING THE ONE YOU CAME HERE TO SEE.
MAKES ME WANT TO TRY KISSING YOU.
HA HA HA!
JUST KIDDING.
...THIS IS THE PROBLEM.
HE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME.
WHENEVER WE'RE ALONE, HE SMOTHERS ME WITH THESE STUPID JOKES.
THOUGH HAVING SAID THAT, IT'S PRETTY CHILDISH OF ME TO LET IT UPSET ME...

I WANT TO HIRE YOU...
...TO REDESIGN MY HOME INTERIOR.
OF COURSE, IF YOUR DESIGN IS GOOD ENOUGH, I WOULDN'T MIND REMODELING COMPLETELY.
I KNOW YOU SPECIALIZE IN OFFICES AND STORES, BUT WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'M A BIT NERVOUS ABOUT LETTING OTHERS GET THEIR HANDS ON MY HOME.
THOUGH, TO BE HONEST,
I THOUGHT -
IT'D BE NICE TO LET YOU "REDESIGN" MY PERSONAL LIFE AS WELL.
THEN WHY ...?
.....IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH, HM?
I'LL TAKE THAT CHALLENGE.
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL SPEAK TO SUGIMOTO AND GET BACK TO YOU.
THANK YOU.
...THIS AGAIN!
YOU...!
WHY DO YOU KEEP PESTERING ME?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON THIS.
EXCUSE ME, DIRECTOR.
OH, SHIKI.
IT'S TIME.
YOU JUST RELAX HERE
THEN I'LL...
FUNG!!
AND BY THAT I MEAN -
YOUR DESIGNS, OF COURSE.
AND EVERY-THING ELSE ABOUT YOU.
ISN'T IT NATURAL TO WANT TO ENJOY TIME WITH SOMEONE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?
...WHAT A SILLY QUESTION.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M INTERESTED IN YOU.

YOU LOOK HAPPY, UNCLE.
YES. COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.
HE WON'T BE ABLE TO JOKE ANYMORE.
I'LL MAKE HIM SERIOUSLY FALL FOR ME.
AND THEN I'LL BE THE ONE PLAYING...!
...NMM.
NOT THAT I IMAGINED DIFFERENTLY...

YOU CAN COME HERE WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOUR CALL.
FREE ADMISSION FOR THOSE THAT ARE RECOGNIZED, NUH?
...HOW ARROGANT.
IF NE WANTS A NEW DESIGN, THAT'S WHAT I'LL GIVE NIM.
"ISN'T IT NATURAL TO WANT TO ENJOY IT?"
IF NE WANTS TO HAVE FUN, I'LL PLAY ALONG.
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO JUST FOLLOW NIS LEAD.

HE'S CERTAINLY BUSY.
IS THIS REALLY A GOOD TIME TO BE WORRIED ABOUT REMODELING?
COME IN.
IT'S A NICE PLACE.
THE BALCONY IS PRETTY SPACIOUS.
IS THIS THE KITCHEN ...?
SHIT.
I WON'T LOSE...!
HE DOES HAVE GOOD TASTE.
YES.
THIS LIGHTING, TOO?
THIS CLOSET IS VERY INTERESTING ... DID IT COME LIKE THIS?
NO, I HAD IT MADE FOR ME.

WELCOME.
BUT IT REALLY IS A NICE BUILDING.
ARE YOU SURE...?
I DON'T MIND. I'M FINISHED FOR TODAY.
NOT AT ALL. I WANTED TO SEE THE INTERIOR AT NIGHT ANYWAY...
I'M SORRY IT HAD TO BE SO LATE, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER TIME.
I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT IN TIME. I'M JUST ABOUT TO LEAVE.
I'LL PICK YOU UP TOMORROW AT 9.
EXCUSE ME.

A WOMAN, HM?
NE MUST BRING PEOPLE HOME.
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE OKUMURA ACTUALLY COOKING, WHICH MEANS...
NE DID SAY NE HAS A HOUSEKEEPER DO THE CLEANING.
A GERMAN SET...IT'S IN GOOD SHAPE. AND AN INDUSTRIAL OVEN.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S ACTUALLY USED, TOO.

EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY IS USED SATISFACTORILY...

OKUMURA SEEMS COMFORTABLE ENOUGH IN IT.

HOW CAN I BRING THIS SPACE TO LIFE?

CONCENTRATE.

...NOT THAT IT'S ANY OF MY BUSINESS.

...
...
...?
...
WAS I...
ASLEEP?
...MM.
...HUH ...?
...?
HE SEEMS DIFFERENT...
DID YOU DO THIS?
I WAS... SLEEPING?
...
YES.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT SO LONG...

IT'S A BIT CHILLY.
THIS SHOULD DO.
...IT'S STRANGE.
HIS EYE COLOR ALWAYS MAKES ME SO UNCOMFORTABLE...
TH-THUMP
MM...
BUT WITH HIS EYES CLOSED LIKE THIS, HE'S ALMOST--

...IT MAKES ME NOT WANT TO LET YOU LEAVE.
IT'S NICE TO HEAR YOU CALL ME BY MY NAME.
I'VE HIRED YOU TO DO MY HOME, AFTER ALL.
DROP THE "OWNER" WILL YOU?
NOW, NOW.
YOU OUGHT TO GO RIGHT TO BED AND GET SOME REST.
IF YOU'RE SO TIRED AS TO BE MAKING THAT INNOCENT, CHILDLIKE FACE AS YOU SLEEP,
...ALL RIGHT, OKUMURA-SAN.
SHUT
...
WELL,
EXCUSE ME.
...HRM.
NOW THAT HE'S AWAKE, HE'S BACK TO HIMSELF.
I SHOULD HAVE SUNG YOU A LULLABY, TOO.
YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE A CHILD ASLEEP.
I'M SURE.
THANK YOU.
THOUGH I'D BE WARMER WITH YOU SLEEPING NEXT TO ME.
IT WAS A BIT CHILLY ...
A CHILD... HUH?
HMM.
SMIRK
IT'S KIND OF CUTE.
HIS REACTIONS REALLY ARE OFF.
ANYWAY, OWNER. WE'LL MEET AGAIN NEXT SATURDAY AT 3.
IF I NEED TO CHANGE ANYTHING WITH THE IMAGE WE DISCUSSED, I'LL CALL YOU.

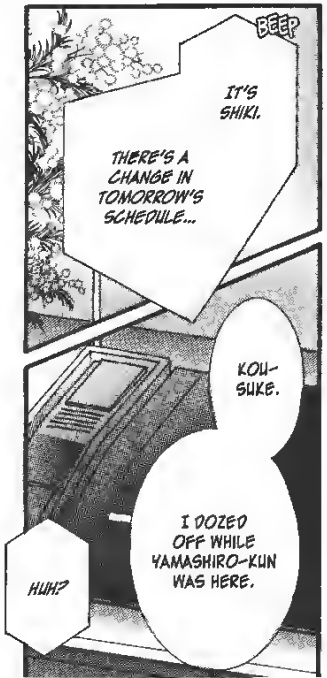
IT'S AN OFFICE DESIGN FOR I.T. GROUP.
YOU'LL GET THE DETAILS IN THE MEETING.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'LL BE FINE.

WHAT ABOUT OKUMURA? HOW'S THAT GOING?
NO PROB-LEMS.
IT'S JUST REDECORATING, I SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING UP BY THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH.

...YOU DID? WHILE SOMEONE WAS THERE?

I'VE NEVER BEEN WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM.
I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN I CAN'T STAND IT.
I MAY BE EVEN...
...MORE INTO HIM THAN I THOUGHT.

CUTE,
HUH...?
RRR!


BEEP
IT'S SHIKI.
THERE'S A CHANGE IN TOMORROW'S SCHEDULE...
KOU-SUKE.
I DOZED OFF WHILE YAMASHIRO-KUN WAS HERE.
HUH?

HA HA HA HA HA!
HIS FACE!
I'M NOT DONE YET.

I'M THE ONE PLAYING NOW
NOT YOU.
SPIN YOUR WHEELS A BIT LONGER.
I'VE GOT TO GET YOU SERIOUS, AFTER ALL.

...BUT THEN -
I CAN'T JUST BE A TEASE, EITHER.
FROM OKUMURA, HUH?
OUR CONSULTATION W
YOUR DESIGN SENSE
SEEMED TO LIKE THE B
OTHER NIGHT, I WOND
YOU MIGHT COME BY A
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU
-OKUMU
...?
~♪
GEEZ, EVERY DAY...
I'M NOT ABOUT TO JUST WALTZ INTO HIS BAR.
WELCOME, YAMASHIRO -SAMA.
...
...
...

HMPH
AS LONG AS YOU'RE DOING WELL....
WELL, IT'S MY JOB.
...YOU'RE NOT COMPLAINING. YOU MUST BE IN A GOOD MOOD.
A GOOD MOOD?
I'M IN A GREAT MOOD.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME HE HASN'T HAD A COMEBACK FOR ME.
HE'S USUALLY SO DAMN CLEVER.
I WONDER IF HE HAS MORE FACES LIKE THAT...
I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT.
I'LL SEE THEM. I WANT TO SEE THEM...
IT AMUSES ME WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT IT.

SHIKI-SAN SAID YOU'D ALREADY LEFT...
OKUMURA-SAN...
I SAW YOU FROM THE CAR.
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
HE WAS FAST ASLEEP THE OTHER DAY.
OWNER, YOUR COAT.
NO, IT'S FINE.
I COULDN'T MAKE A U-TURN, SO I STOPPED THE CAR AND RAN BACK.
HE RAN?
THE COOL-FACED, PERPETUALLY SUIT-CLAD OKUMURA?
SWEATY, HIS HAIR MUSSED...
...
...
HEH

SHIKI-SAN.
YOU CAME.
OKUMURA-SAN WAS HERE UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.
OH, I JUST WANTED TO DROP BY.
HIS MEMORY OF PAST CUSTOMERS MUST BE PERFECT.
NOT BAD.
YAMASHIRO-KUN?
IT'S A GREAT PLACE.
IT IS, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF.
OKUMURA SAYS IT'S TOO SUBTLE, BUT THAT'S JUST HIS NIT-PICKING AT WORK.
NIT... REALLY?
HE DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE.
WELL, EXCUSE ME.
ENJOY YOURSELF.
CAN'T SLEEP?
I HEAR HE CAN'T SLEEP AT ALL IF HE EVEN SENSES ANOTHER PERSON IN THE ROOM.
THE DIRECTOR IS MUCH MORE HIGHLY STRUNG THAN HE SEEMS.

THE PARTS TO BE RE-MODELED ARE –
THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND WALL DECO-RATIONS.

THE NEW CURTAIN FABRIC WILL HAVE SOME TEXTURE TO IT, AS YOU REQUESTED.
AND THERE ARE SEVEN NEW PIECES OF FURNITURE, HERE...AND HERE.
AND THIS WALL BY THE ENTRANCE?

IT'S MIXED WITH A BIT OF HONEY. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.
IT'S A LOVELY AMBER COLOR.
JUST LIKE OKUMURA'S EYES....
HMPH
...HE'S STILL SUCH A FLIRT.

I GOT TO SEE YOU, AT LEAST.
I'D LIKE TO MAKE THIS A DATE, BUT I HAVE TO GO.
ENJOY YOURSELF.

YOU'RE SO....
...NO, NEVER MIND.

HEH HEH HEH...
...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE DEEPLY MOVED OR SOMETHING, RATHER THAN LAUGHING?

DID HE REALLY RUN ALL THE WAY BACK HERE JUST TO SEE ME?

?
FROM THE OWNER.
ONE OF HIS ORIGINAL COCKTAILS.

REACH
HERE YOU ARE.
...
...

WHEN I HAVE TIME.
...YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
ALL RIGHT, I'LL MAKE SOMETHING.
BUT ALL I CAN DO RIGHT NOW IS PASTA.
NO, I...
DON'T IGNORE ME!
BUT I JUST SAID
IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAT WAY.
WE'LL EAT AT THE SOFA.
DOESN'T A WOMAN USE THAT KITCHEN?
INGREDIENTS...?
YOU ACTUALLY COOK... DO YOU?
YOU DON'T MEAN...
SMOKED SALMON AND BASIL PASTA.
NO, IT'S... GOOD.
DID I PERHAPS OVER-SEASON IT?

REDECORATING TAKES A KEEN SENSE OF ATTENTION TO DETAIL.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF WOMEN WHO HAVE THAT, BUT YOU'RE NOT BAD YOURSELF.
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU KEPT MY TASTE IN TACT, YOU'VE PLANNED EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE PLACE.
THANK YOU!
I'LL LET YOU GO AHEAD WITH THIS.
WE'LL USE STUCCO.
HMM...
INTERESTING. I LIKE IT.
FABR
IGHT
PL

I'D ASK YOU TO TRY SOME OF MY HOME MADE COOKING, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY INGREDIENTS RIGHT NOW.
IT'S ALREADY SO LATE.
BUT THERE'S A DELICIOUS JAPANESE RESTAURANT NEARBY. SHALL WE?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
OF COURSE.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING.
I'LL WORK HARD SO THAT YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT ME LATER.

...YOUR FACE IS RED. ARE YOU DRUNK FROM THE WINE?
...IT'S HOT IN HERE! IS YOUR AIR CONDITIONER BROKEN?
I DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A PRES-ENCE.
MAYBE YOU JUST COULDN'T TELL I WAS THERE.
...HRNN.
TH-THUMP
SO TAKE OFF YOUR JACKET.
I WILL!
YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT PRESENCE.
NOT AT ALL.
LETTING A MAN TAKE YOUR TIE OFF.
WHAT?
HAVE YOU EVER IMAG-INED IT?
I'M NOT IN SALES.
YOU DON'T WEAR NECKTIES, DO YOU?
...

TO GO FROM ONE RESTAURANT TO THE HEAD OF A COMPANY MANAGING ALMOST 20 IN UNDER 10 YEARS...
YOU HAVE AMAZING TALENT.
IT WAS HARD, AT FIRST.
I WAS NAIVE, AND HAD A LOT OF MONEY STOLEN.
WHEN I WAS ABOUT 20, I WANTED TO BE A CHEF.
BUT THEN I BECAME INTER-ESTED IN MANAGE-MENT.
...YES.
I WONDER WHY THAT WAS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT...
SHIKI-SAN MENTIONED THAT, TOO...
THE OTHER NIGHT ...
EVEN NOW, I CAN'T SLEEP WHEN SOMEONE'S NEAR.
HEY WAIT A MINUTE.
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR YOU TO TELL ME THAT?
I GREW TO MISTRUST PEOPLE.
IT'S KIND OF SAD, REALLY.
HA HA

...IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE REALLY PRACTICED THIS.
I DO.
RIGHT NOW, I'M - MAGINING YOU.
THE PULL OF THE FABRIC WARMS THE BACK OF YOUR NECK.
BUT IS IT REALLY JUST THE FRICTION? YOU CAN'T TELL.
AND IF THE COLLAR GETS IN THE WAY... JUST LIFT IT UP A LITTLE.
...AND THE MOMENT THE TIE IS GONE...
...SEE?
...!
YOU MAKE THAT FACE THAT SAYS YOU WANT TO BE KISSED.

...HE'S PLAYING WITH ME AGAIN.
I WON'T LET HIM DO AS HE PLEASES.
FINE.
AS IF I'LL LET HIM GET TO ME...!
LET ME SHOW YOU.
GULP
...THE THROAT IS ONE OF MAN'S WEAK-NESSES.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SOMEWHAT EROTIC, BEING TOUCHED HERE?
...
...
...
JUST SLIDE A FINGER INTO THE KNOT, AND PULL.
GLIDE
...SLOWLY.
DON'T BE TOO ROUGH.
WELL, THAT'S FUN SOMETIMES, BUT FOR TODAY, SLOWLY...

CLICK
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A BETTER KISSER THAN THAT.
...HM.
EXCUSE ME FOR TONIGHT.
OH WELL.
THANKS FOR THE -
KISS AND THE PASTA.
SHUT
SLIDE
I'M NOT MAKING -
ANY SUCH F-
YAMA...
...OKUMURA-SAN.

恋愛操作 LOVE CONTROL

れんあい コントロール

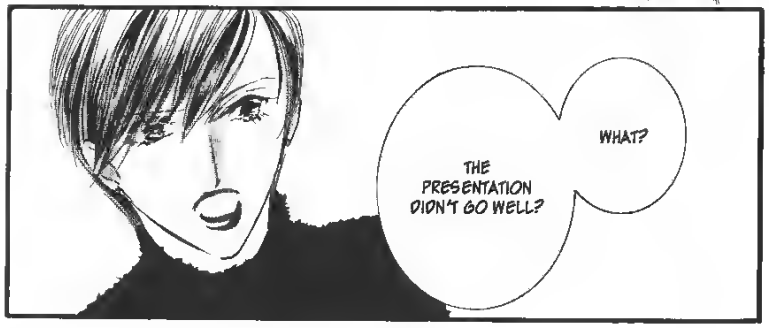
LAST PART 後編

LOVE CONTROL FIRST PART / END

"...YOU MAKE THAT FACE, THAT SAYS YOU WANT TO BE KISSED."
...NN.
"SEE?"
YAMASHIRO-SAN!
WE HAVE A MEETING AT 3.
SHOULDN'T WE BE GOING?
OH...
THANKS.
I'M ON MY WAY.
WAIT, THAT'S THE WRONG SAMPLE!
RRR
YES, SUGIMOTO LIFE DESIGN OFFICES.
KATSUTA-SAN,
DO YOU HAVE AN ESTIMATE FROM THE CONTRACTOR?
SHARE
"HAVE YOU EVER IMAGINED IT?"
CLICK
CLICK
"LETTING A MAN TAKE YOUR TIE OFF."
"AND THE MOMENT THE TIE IS GONE..."

PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.
YAMASHIRO-SAN, IT'S THE NEXT ONE.
...EXCUSE ME, THIS ONE.
USING YOUR BUSINESS'S CONCEPT OF "WORLD & TRY" AS THE THEME...
YOU'RE AT WORK...!

WE'LL START WITH THE HALL...
DON'T THINK ABOUT - ANYTHING ELSE...!


WHAT?
THE PRESENTATION DIDN'T GO WELL?

...EVER SINCE THEN...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD.
HOW COULD I PANIC AFTER JUST ONE KISS?
YOU'RE KINDA STRANGE TODAY, YAMASHIRO-SAN.
OH.
ARE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING?
...
...

I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER HOW I GOT HOME AFTER THAT.
I'M ACTING LIKE A CHILD...!
LET ME EXPLAIN OUR DESIGN FOR YOUR NEW OFFICE.
IF YOU'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCREEN...

JUST OKUMURA'S LIPS.
IT WAS JUST A KISS.
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
YOU'RE THE ONE PLAYING, RIGHT?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
JUST HIS HOT TONGUE...
...
...
...
TH-THUMP
KYAA!
RATTLE
SPLASH

...
MAYBE HE'S NOT FEELING WELL OR SOMETHING.
HE'S BEEN SPACING OUT A LOT LATELY
HE SHORTENED THE EXPLANATION, MIXED UP THE EXAMPLES...IT'S NOT LIKE HIM.
WELL, NOT THAT.

IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
I'M JUST A LITTLE UNSETTLED TODAY.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YAMASHIRO-KUN?
ARE YOU UNWELL?
...THIS IS THE WORST.
IT'S EVEN AFFECTING MY WORK.
FORGET ABOUT IT.
DON'T LET ANYTHING HE DOES GET TO YOU. LEAVE IT ALONE.

...NO..
WAIT.
MAYBE OKUMURA...
...HAS ALREADY GOTTEN SERIOUS...
NORMALLY, HE WOULD HAVE CALLED BY NOW.
IS HE GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE UNTIL OUR NEXT MEETING?!
I'M SORRY MAKO-CHAN, BUT CAN YOU CLEAN THIS UP?
W..IT
YAMA-SHIRO-KUN?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! DID YOU GET BURNED...?
...I'M FINE, IT'S COOL.
BUT I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING... I HAVE TO GO TODAY.
WHAT IS THIS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME...
...AND IT'S ALL HIS FAULT!
WHAT'S WITH HIM ANYWAY...?!
HA.
HA HA!
I JUST HAVE TO TELL HIM.
THEN I CAN –
THAT'S RIGHT, BECAUSE...
I WAS THE ONE...PLAYING WITH HIM...
...?
YAMASHIRO-KUN!

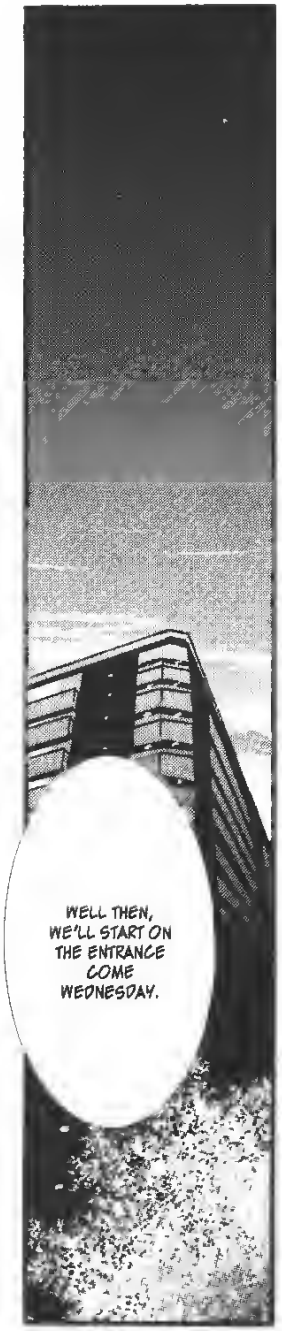
FWOOSH
YOU CAN BE SO...
...
...
...
I'D GIVE YOU A RIDE MYSELF, BUT I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME BUSINESS.
I'M GOING BY CAR, SO I DON'T NEED IT.
THIS OUGHT TO HIDE IT.
YOU'D BETTER GO HOME BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD.
...I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
...BUSINESS WITH A WOMAN?
OH?
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
TOO BAD.
WHY WOULD I?!
HA HA HA

I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU GO ON AHEAD?
OKU-MURA-SAN?
...A WOMAN...
?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR CLOTHES?
...! OKU...
I CALLED YOU SEVERAL TIMES. HOW AWFUL OF YOU TO IGNORE ME.
HAVE YOU BEEN WALKING AROUND LIKE THAT?
I'M ON MY WAY HOME. GOODBYE.
JUST WAIT A MINUTE!

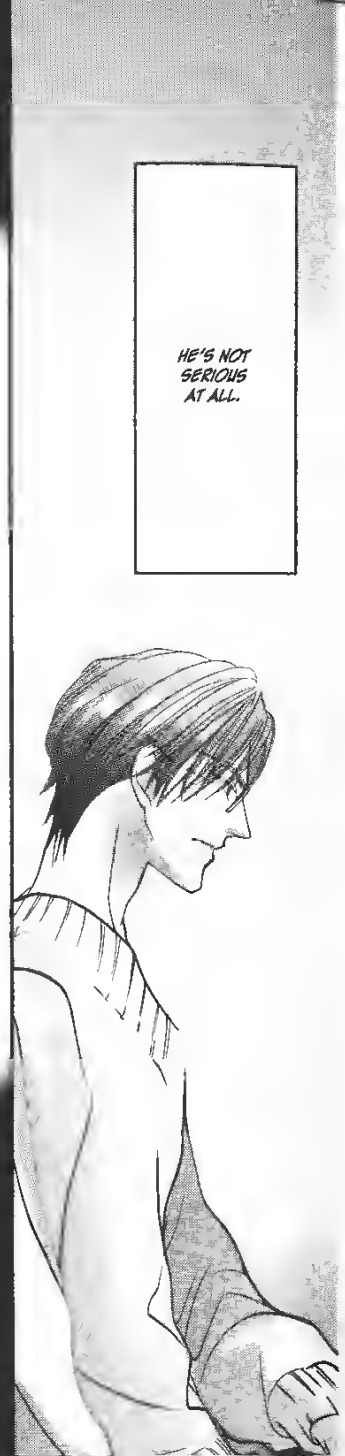
I HAVE SOME CLIENTS COMING IN THAT DAY...
...I DIDN'T MEAN THAT BUSINESS.
I'LL CALL YOU TOMORROW WITH MY ANSWER.
THANK YOU.
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TODAY?
I WASN'T WAITING.
...ANYWAY, ABOUT THE BUSINESS AT HAND...
AH, RIGHT.
CAN WE MOVE OUR MEETING TO 5 O'CLOCK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW?
A NORMAL GUY LIKE ME COULDN'T INTEREST ANYONE LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
I ENJOY YOU PLENTY.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
...HMPH.
WERE YOU HARASSED BY SOME PUNKS OR SOMETHING?
YOU LOOKED SO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR USUALLY IMMACULATE SELF.
S... SOME-THING...?

IT'S ALREADY AFTER 12...!
...HE SAID HE'D CALL.
PiPiPi
PiPiPi
I DON'T NEED TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY!
PiPi
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT, BUT I JUST GOT BACK.
...HELLO?
RING RING
GOOD, I REACHED YOU.

...IT'S RUDE TO LISTEN IN ON SOMEONE'S PHONE CALL.
BUT I'VE BEEN HERE ALL ALONG.
...HE SURE TOLD ME.
CALLED ME "AWFUL."
BLIP
...I DON'T THINK HE "ENJOYED" IT.
HE SAYS WITH THAT GLOSSY LOOK
TO YOU, "ENJOYING" EQUALS LOVE.
I WISH HE'D FEEL THE SAME...
...I'D LIKE TO THINK HE DOES.
...WHEN I'M WITH HIM, I ENJOY MYSELF SO MUCH I CAN'T STAND IT.
HE CERTAINLY IS HARD TO GET.
HEH?
IT'S A FIRST FOR ME.
YOU'RE EASY TO LIKE, YOU KNOW.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU MAKE THAT FACE YOU DID THE OTHER NIGHT.
I ENJOYED IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE -
THANKS FOR THE COAT.
I'LL HAVE IT PRESSED BEFORE I RETURN IT TO YOU.
CLICK
REALLY?
YOU WERE PRETTY SEXY THEN...
I DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT AWFUL KISS UNTIL JUST NOW.
IF YOU SAY SO.


WELL THEN, WE'LL START ON THE ENTRANCE COME WEDNESDAY.

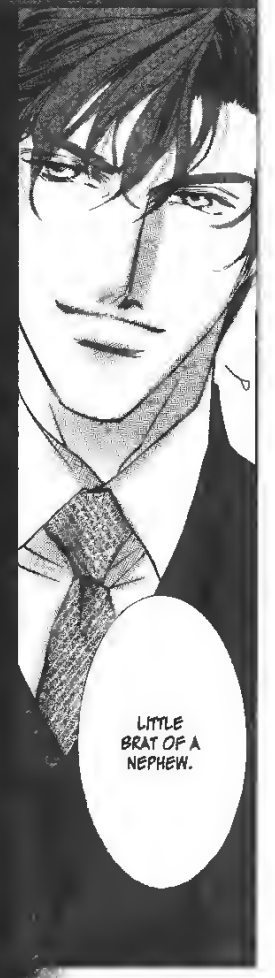
NOT EVEN...
...ONE BIT.


HE'S NOT SERIOUS AT ALL.

ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK.

BUT I WONDER IF SOMEONE AS PROUD AS HIM FEELS THE SAME.

I ENJOY YOU PLENTY.


LITTLE BRAT OF A NEPHEW.

WELL THEN, OKUMURA-SAN.
WE'LL BEGIN WEDNESDAY AT 9.
AS FOR THE DECORATIVE PLANTS,
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GO ON THE BALCONY...
...OKAY. EXCUSE ME.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO -
LOOK ME IN THE FACE ALL DAY.
EXCUSE ME,
BUT I'M BUSY TODAY.
DO YOU...
THAT'S NOT TRUE.

YAMA-SHIRO-SAN.
I'VE FINISHED PUTTING UP THE PROTECTIVE COVERINGS.
THANKS, KAJI.
YOU CAN HEAD BACK TO THE OFFICE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
NOT AT ALL.
UM, BUT...WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT ALONE HERE?

OW!
SMACK
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KEEP YOUR SILLY OPINIONS TO YOURSELF
"ALL RIGHT"?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING KIND OF STRANGE LATELY...
I THOUGHT MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OKUMURA IS PUSHING YOU TOO HARD.
GO BACK.
AND PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THE MERCHANT THAT OUR FURNITURE IS BEING SHIPPED.

YAMASHIRO-KUN?
PLEASE, BACK OFF.
SERIOUSLY, GIVE ME A BREAK.
I'VE PUT UP WITH IT UNTIL NOW, BUT I'M SICK OF PLAYING ALONG WITH YOUR STUPID JOKES.
AND BESIDES,
I HAVE WORK TO DO.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
IS IT BECAUSE I'M NOT UNPOLISHED LIKE HIM -
THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CLOSE TO ME?
...PLEASE,
STOP IT.
TAKAMIYA-KUN, THAT GUY JUST NOW.
DO YOU LIKE ROUGH MEN LIKE THAT?
THAT TYPE?
LIKE THAT TYPE?
IF I WERE MORE LIKE HIM,
WOULD I GET TO PLAY WITH YOU MORE?
..OKUMURA-SAN,
STOP IT...

I WON'T MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE ON THE JOB AGAIN.
I PROMISE -
IT'S BOTHERSOME.
I USE MY BODY TO GET WORK.
I DON'T WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE -
...I UNDER-STAND.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN THOUGHTLESS.
THAT YOU COULDN'T REJECT ME BECAUSE I'M YOUR CLIENT?
...
...
...
...HAVE YOU ALWAYS FELT THAT WAY?
HOW-EVER,
I REALLY DO THINK YOU'RE SKILLED.
I WANT TO HIRE YOU AGAIN, IF WE NEED MORE WORK DONE ON JIRI.
AND I STILL WANT YOU TO FINISH YOUR WORK HERE.
...ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY...I SAID TOO MUCH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.
YOU WERE RIGHT

I'M RELIEVED.
HE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY UNDERSTANDING.
woosh
NOW I DON'T HAVE -
TO BE BOTHERED...
...WHY DID I TRY TO...
...COVER MY EARS...?
DID I NOT WANT TO HEAR OKUMURA'S TRUE FEELINGS...?
DOES SOME PART OF ME WANT HIM TO BE SERIOUS?
THAT CAN'T BE.
I'M THE ONE THAT...
I AM...

...NO LONGER TALKS MORE THAN NECESSARY.
CHOOK
...HM.
IT'S NICE.
CLINK
...OKUMURA...

WHEN YOU MENTIONED EXCHANGING PART OF THE ENTRANCE HALL WITH REINFORCED GLASS, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO THINK.
YOUR DESIGN CAME OUT WELL.

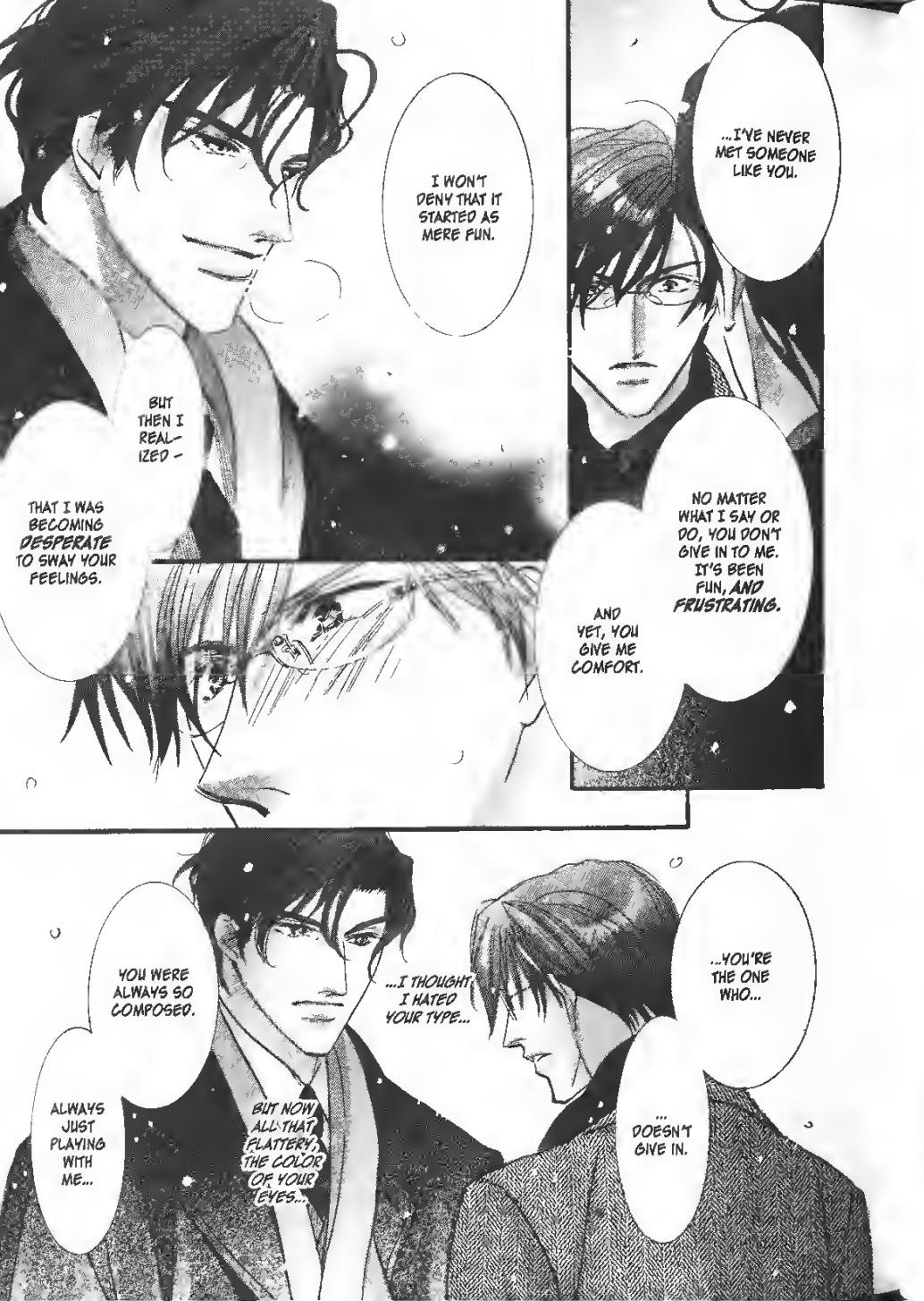
TODAY, WE'LL BE TURNING THE PLACE BACK OVER TO YOU.
I HOPE IT MATCHES THE IMAGE WE AGREED ON.

YES.
I CAN'T WAIT.

FWOOSH
1:04

...
...
YAMA-SHIRO-KUN.
...YES?
WELL THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING THAT NEEDS ATTENTION, PLEASE CONTACT ME.
THE COLOR AND ARRANGE-MENT...
...ARE JUST LIKE I IMAGINED. I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.
I UNDER-STAND.
PERSON-ALLY, OF COURSE.
I'D LIKE TO SETTLE THE BILL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SHUT
THANK YOU.
I'M HONORED.
...LIKE I COULD REALLY SLEEP WELL IN IT.
THANK YOU.
THE ROOM SEEMS MORE RELAXING THAN BEFORE.

WHIRR
CLICK
...YOU'RE WORKING AWFULLY LATE.
WHEN I FINISH THIS DRAFT.
AREN'T YOU GOING HOME, YAMASHIRO-KUN?
WE'RE GOING ON AHEAD.
WOW,
IT'S SNOWING.
SO COLD!
SAME AS ALWAYS.
ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YOU'RE WORKING HARD.
HE DOESN'T EVEN CALL ME...
...ON MY CELL ANYMORE.
HE PROBABLY JUST GAVE UP.
...HE ACTS ON HIS WHIMS.
BY THE WAY, WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN MANY CALLS FROM OKUMURA LATELY.
HE'S NOT UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING, IS HE?


I WON'T DENY THAT IT STARTED AS MERE FUN.
...I'VE NEVER MET SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
BUT THEN I REAL-IZED -
THAT I WAS BECOMING DESPERATE TO SWAY YOUR FEELINGS.
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY OR DO, YOU DON'T GIVE IN TO ME. IT'S BEEN FUN, AND FRUSTRATING.
AND YET, YOU GIVE ME COMFORT.
YOU WERE ALWAYS SO COMPOSED.
...I THOUGHT I HATED YOUR TYPE...
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...
ALWAYS JUST PLAYING WITH ME...
BUT NOW ALL THAT FLATTERY, THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES...
... DOESN'T GIVE IN.

OKUMURA-SAN...
...JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.
I DIDN'T CONTACT YOU UNTIL OUR BUSINESS WAS CONCLUDED.
BECAUSE I'M SERIOUS ABOUT YOU.
...I DO HAVE SOME WILL POWER, YOU KNOW.
... WHY ...
I RECEIVED THE INVOICE TODAY. THE PAYMENT'S ALL TAKEN CARE OF.
HERE'S THE RECEIPT.

TELL ME YOU LOVE ME.
...BE HONEST.
...I WON'T JUST -
DO WHAT YOU TELL ME TO.
KEI.

...SHOW ME YOUR FACE.
...NN.
SHOW ME, KEI.
BUT STILL...
BUT STILL -
I CAN'T GET YOU OUT OF MY HEAD.
DO YOU WANT TO KISS ME?
I DON'T ...
KEI.
...KEI, DO YOU WANT TO TAKE OFF MY TIE?
N- NO...
STOP IT... SOMEONE MIGHT -
NO ONE'S HERE.

BE QUIET ...!
HAAH...
KEI,
YOU COULD AT LEAST—
AHH ...
LOWER YOUR HIPS MORE.
OH... H...!
LET ME TAKE THE LEAD HERE...!
HEH
AHH!
YOU KNOW,
I HAVE LIMITS TO HOW LONG I CAN HOLD BACK...!

HAAH
HAAH
...AHH!
...NN.
HOWEVER ...
I'LL SAY IT BECAUSE I WANT TO
I LOVE YOU.

...FORGET IT.
HURRY ...
I REALLY CAN'T STAND UP TO THAT COLOR...!
IT'S BECAUSE... YOU'RE LOOKING AT ME WITH... THOSE EYES...!
MY EYES? WHAT ABOUT THEM?
KEI.
AH!
OKUMU-RA...
SA-...
...?
...I'M GLAD WE CAME BACK TO MY PLACE.
STO -
AHH...
...DID YOU IMAGINE YOURSELF IN THEM WHEN YOU DECIDED?
THE COLOR OF THE SHEETS YOU SELECTED LOOKS GOOD AGAINST YOUR SKIN.
DON'T BE STUPI -
...NN!
NO, KEI. MOVE YOUR HAND.
...I LOVE THAT LOOK OF LUST IN YOUR FACE.
COME ON...
OKUMURA-SAN...!
AH!
COME...

SO,
I'M NOT TAKING IT BACK.
YOU BELONG TO ME.
HE'S THE LAST PERSON I'D LET SAY THAT
SINCE WHEN?
I DO?
I'M YOURS?
I DON'T BELONG TO ANYONE!
YOU BELONG TO ME.
BUT...
YOU REALLY ARE COLD.

SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.
I WASN'T WAITING.
ALL I GOT WAS AN EMAIL WITH A PLACE AND TIME. THAT DOESN'T COUNT AS A DATE.
I JUST CAME HERE TO HAVE A COCKTAIL.
...THAT'S AN AWFULLY COLD GREETING FOR YOUR LOVER.
CHUCKLE
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE, HM?
YOU'RE LIKE AIR ITSELF TO ME.
BECAUSE YOUR FACE IS SAYING, "I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE IF YOU MAKE ME."
...
...
HM?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ASK ME TO RETRACT THAT "LOVER"?

KEI YAMASHIRO

...YOU REALLY ARE -

AND I'M NOT TAKING *THAT* BACK.

SO STUBBORN.

SO ARE YOU.

LOVE CONTROL / END

IT LOOKS RUINED.
THE STUDY WALL AND THE CHAIR'S ARM.
THEY'RE PRETTY NOTICEABLE DAMAGES. WHAT DID THEY HIT?
LOVE CONTROL II
恋愛操作 II
WE'VE CONTACTED THE MERCHANT ABOUT REPAIRS,
BUT THE DIRECTOR TOLD ME TO ASK YOU.
WAS IT THIS? I'M SURPRISED IT DIDN'T BREAK.
BEEP
THIS IS YAMA-SHIRO.
KEI? IT'S ME.
I DON'T MIND. I'LL HANDLE IT...EXCUSE ME.
Pi Pi Pi
THE CHAIR WAS FROM TAKAMIYA-SAN.
CAN I ASK YOU TO TAKE CARE OF IT?

TAKASHI OKUMURA

恋愛操作 II

れんあい　コントロール

LOVE CONTROL II

OKUMURA-SAN.
HOW ARE THINGS THERE?
IT'S FINE. WE'VE OPENED UP THE ENTRANCE, AND THE REPAIRS ARE BEING TAKEN CARE OF.
HEH
IT MUST BE SOME KIND OF BAD KARMA THAT I ASKED YOU TO COME -
AND THEN I HAD TO LEAVE ON IMPORTANT BUSINESS MYSELF.
DON'T BE SILLY.
YES. WELL,
EXCUSE ME.
...? WHAT IS IT?
NOTH-ING.
STARE

"YOU LOOK SO KIND WHEN YOU SMILE."
JUST WHAT WAS SNIKI-SAN TRYING TO SAY ABOUT HOW I LOOK?
KEI.
...IS IT...
ONLY WHEN I'M THINKING ABOUT OKUMURA?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, HAVING SHIKI-SAN WAS ENOUGH.
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS.
SORRY ABOUT BEFORE.
IT'S TOO BAD I WASN'T ABLE TO SEE YOU.
OKUMURA-SAN.
HM?
IS THERE A SEAT AT THE WINDOW OPEN?
THERE'S A TABLE PREPARED NEAR THE BACK...
THERE IS, BUT...AREN'T YOU MEETING SOMEONE TONIGHT?
WELCOME.
YOU LOOKED AS IF YOU WERE WAITING FOR SOMEONE...
?
OH, EXCUSE ME. ARE YOU ALONE TONIGHT?
BUT I'D STILL LIKE A WINDOW SEAT.
NO, I AM.
LOOKED AS IF I WERE WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
DID I LOOK LOVE-STRUCK OR SOMETHING?
THIS IS OKUMURA-SAN'S BAR -
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I ONLY COME HERE TO SEE HIM.

I CAN'T WAIT...
...TO GET IT OFF YOU.
I'M STILL THE ONE TAKING IT OFF TONIGHT.
SLIP

... MNN ...

YOU KNOW...
YOU CAN SAY "I MISSED YOU DEARLY," SOMETIME.
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S OUR 3 MONTH ANNIVERSARY.
IT'S BEEN 3 MONTHS SINCE WE BECAME LOVERS, THAT NIGHT IN THE SNOW.
SNORT
SINCE YOU WHISPERED "I LOVE YOU" TO ME.
ANNIVERSARY OF WHAT?
?

I DON'T REALLY CARE WHY.
WELL, ALL RIGHT.
I WORE IT BECAUSE I WAS MAKING INTRODUCTIONS TODAY.
...HMPH, I NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU WORE A TIE TODAY?
COUGH!
WHISPERED ...?

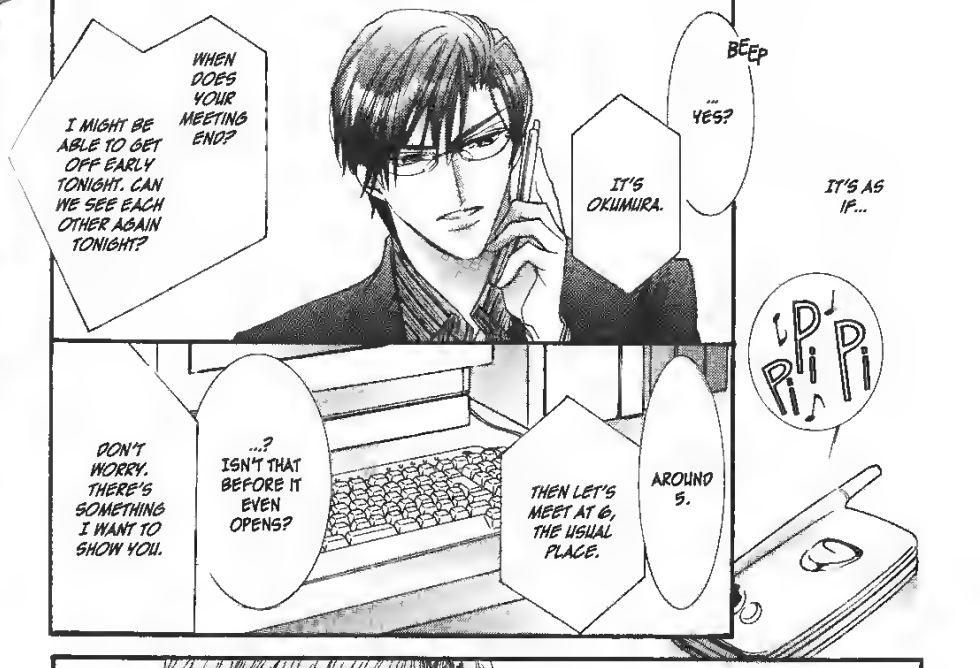
IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS... HMM, YOU HAVE TO EAT A NICE BREAKFAST WITH ME.
YOU ALWAYS LEAVE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING SO YOU CAN CHANGE AT HOME.
EXCEPT TODAY I'M THE ONE ON A TIGHT SCHED-ULE.
...BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO EAT THAT.
ARE THESE... ALL MY SIZE?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY THAT
THEY'RE RENTALS.
I LOVE HOLDING ONTO THOSE SLENDER HIPS OF YOURS, BUT SOMETIMES I WORRY.
YOU SHOULD EAT A PROPER BREAKFAST.
...YOU SHOULD TALK.
SHUT
YOU'RE THE BUSY ONE.
...HE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THIS.
PICK SOMETHING YOU LIKE FROM THESE.
SLEEP A WHILE LONGER.
DON'T YOU HAVE TODAY OFF?
NO, I HAVE A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON... I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE OFFICE.
I'LL STOP BY AT HOME TO CHANGE CLOTHES...

YAMA-SHIRO-SAN.
I'VE FINISHED FIXING THE PLANS.
WELL? IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE...?
FEELS LIKE I MISSED SOMETHING
THE DESIGN IS TOO UNIFORM.
IT'S ALL 90 DEGREE ANGLES AND PARALLEL LINES...TOO RIGID.
YOU SHOULD TRY CHANGING YOUR MATERIALS, TOO.
LIKE, IF YOU STRETCH THE ENTRANCE WALL BACK, AND ADD MORE DECORATION...
YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT LOOKS MUCH BETTER.
...
...
...
IT'S GOOD.
I DIDN'T SAY THANK YOU.
OR EVEN HAVE A NICE DAY.
...HAVE A NICE DAY...
HM.
?
...!
...WHAT?
WHAT WAS WITH MY FACE JUST NOW...?
"SO SWEET, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT MELT..."
"LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE WAITING FOR SOMEONE..."
WHEN I'M THINKING ABOUT OKUMURA~
...WHEN I SEE HIM~
DO I ALWAYS MAKE THAT KIND OF FACE...?

OW!
STOP TALKING NONSENSE AND FIX THIS!
FWAP
EAT AFTER!
...WHAT ...?
YOUR ATTITUDE'S CHANGED... I MEAN,
YOUR FACE SEEMS GENTLER.
SOMETIMES.
IT MAKES ME WONDER WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT...
HMPH.
I TAKE IT BACK!
YOU'RE NOT NICE AT ALL!
OKUMURA HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT I'VE CHANGED SINCE I'VE STARTED SEEING [OKUMURA].
WHAT'S WITH EVERYONE?
I AM MYSELF!

OOPS!
11:30.
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT DO YOU WANT TO GRAB LUNCH?
YES!
BUT IT WAS STILL BETTER THAN BEFORE.
YOU'LL DO FINE AT THE PRESENTATION.
WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID A WOMAN THAT COOKS BREAKFAST IS ANNOYING.
YOU LUCKY DOG!
OH, I GET IT! IT'S A WOMAN!
WHAT?
THAT'S RARE! YOU NEVER EAT BREAKFAST.
ACTUALLY, I'VE ALREADY EATEN TODAY.
YOU KNOW, LATELY ...
...YAMASHIRO-SAN.
...IT'S NOT THAT...

...HM.
THAT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
SORRY I'M LATE.
RIGHT, THIS WAY.
SO? WHERE'S THIS THING YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?
I THOUGHT IT WAS CLOSED...
THE ROOF-TOP TERRACE?


WHEN DOES YOUR MEETING END?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET OFF EARLY TONIGHT. CAN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN TONIGHT?
BEEP
... YES?
IT'S OKUMURA.
IT'S AS IF...
PI PI PI
AROUND 5.
THEN LET'S MEET AT 6, THE USUAL PLACE.
...? ISN'T THAT BEFORE IT EVEN OPENS?
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

IT'S AS IF I'M THE ONLY ONE...
KEI.

...!
WHEN IN YOUR ELEMENT.
YOU CERTAINLY CHEER UP -
KEI.
YOU MUST THINK ME AWFULLY SIMPLE.
....YOU DIDN'T DO THIS JUST TO PLEASE ME, DID YOU?
...WE CAN SEE THE INSIDE FROM HERE.
NO ONE ELSE IS HERE YET.
...
...
...I'VE NEVER CONSIDERED YOU SIMPLE.
...
COME HERE.
DON'T BE MAD.
...
I PROMISED TO KEEP OUR WORK AND PRIVATE LIVES SEPARATE.

BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER, AT LEAST.
THE WIND OFF THE BUILDING IS TOO STRONG DURING THE WINTER, WHICH IS WHY IT'S CLOSED.
TERRACE SEATING?
BY LEAVING SOME OF THE CRYSTAL, I THINK I CAN...
I'LL MAKE SEVERAL DESIGNS.
CHUCKLE
YES, I'D LOVE TO!
WHAT?
COME TO THE OFFICE OFFICIALLY SOMETIME AND I'LL HIRE YOU.
I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
IT'S LIKE HIDDEN TREASURE CHESTS.
THE USE OF CRYSTALS UNDER THE TABLES IS VERY INTERESTING.
I THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BRING SOME MORE LIFE TO IT.
I PLAN TO CHANGE THE DESIGN SOON.

I'M GOING HOME TONIGHT.
I'VE BEEN LOSING SLEEP LATELY BECAUSE OF YOU.
I'D LIKE TO GET SOME PROPER REST TONIGHT.
SHOVE
BLUSH
WAIT, KEI.
GOOD NIGHT.
KEI!
DID I...

TONIGHT...
YOU'RE COOL... AND CUTE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE CUTE.
HEH? SEE?
I WANT TO TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME.
I LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU DON'T GIVE IN TO ME.
RE-MEM-BER?

IT'S MORE FACTORY THAN STUDIO, HERE.
NOTHING'S CHANGED.
ARE YOU HERE TO WORK, OR COMPLAIN?
鷹宮
TAKAMIYA

SORRY FOR ASKING FOR SO MUCH.
THERE'S JUST A LITTLE MORE TO DO ON IT.
HOW'S THE CHAIR?
HE SEEMED SO HIGH-STRUNG.
IT WAS OKUMURA-SAN THAT ASKED IT TO BE REDONE.
...

JUST WHAT...
...DOES HE REALLY THINK OF ME...?

"I LIKE YOU BECAUSE YOU WON'T GIVE IN TO ME."
...WHEN IT COMES TO LOVE,
OKUMURA ENJOYS TACTICS AND BARGAINING.
EVEN IF I HAVE FALLEN FOR HIM...

...I CAN'T STAND IT.
I'VE BEEN IN LOVE SO MUCH I ALMOST HATE IT...
BUT I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE.

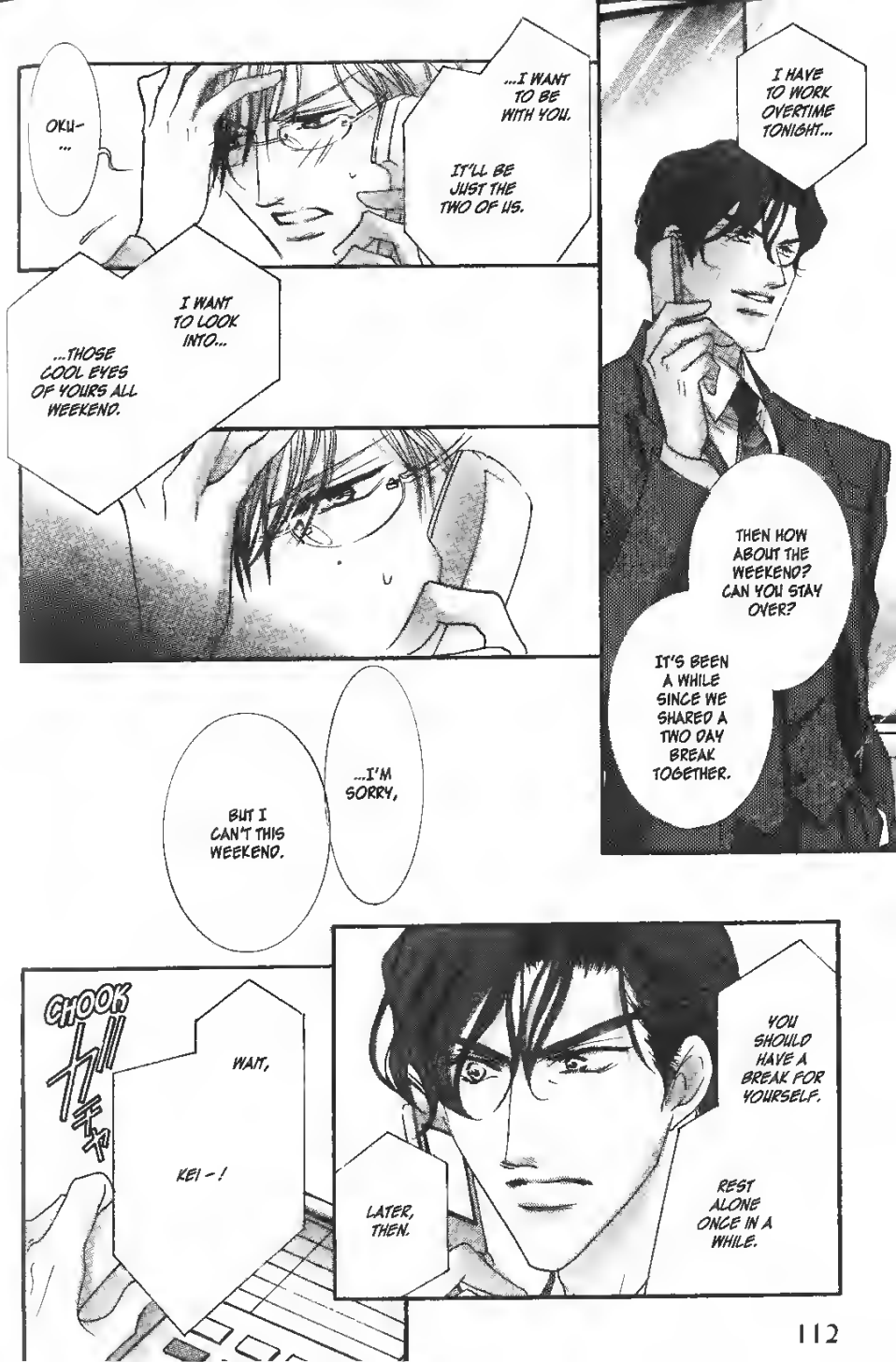
DID I REALLY MAKE THAT SWEET FACE FOR HIM?
IT'S AS IF...I'M THE ONLY ONE.
AS IF MY FACE WERE SCREAMING "I'VE FALLEN FOR OKUMURA!"

I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT UNKNOWN PART OF MYSELF.
...I CAN'T SHOW IT.
I...
...CAN'T.
IT'S NOT A BAD THING,
BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF.
RATTLE
HELLO!
KEI,
YOU...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AZUMI-CHAN.
JIN-SAN...
YAMASHIRO-SAN?!
IS THIS NEW?
YEAH. IT'S NOT FINISHED
IT'S A SIMPLE DESIGN.
YEAH, BUT THE ARMREST CONSTRUCTION IS UNUSUAL.
THEY'RE THE ONLY THINGS HOLDING UP THE BACK.
AS YOU CAN SEE,
WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THE MOST COMFORTABLE CHAIRS POSSIBLE.
...MAYBE.
I KIND OF LIKE...
...MAKING CHAIRS.
IS IT BECAUSE OF HIM?
HE DOESN'T HIDE...
...HIS CONFIDENCE OR ENJOYMENT ANYMORE...
...YOU'VE—
REALLY CHANGED.

?
NEVER MIND.
YAMA-SHIRO-SAN!
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM DIRECTOR OKUMURA!
HELLO?
KEI,
WHAT HAPPENED? I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO REACH YOUR CELL.
SORRY, I'VE BEEN SO BUSY...
...I CAN'T TELL HIM...
WELL ALL RIGHT.
...THAT I WAS JUST TOO SCARED TO ANSWER
YOU LEFT SO SUDDENLY BEFORE.
CAN I SEE YOU TONIGHT?

HEY, KEI.
I DON'T!
EVER THE CHIHUAHUA.
DON'T DISTRACT JIN FROM HIS WORK WITH YOUR FLIRTING, NOW.
WHAT?
...SOME HOW,
IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE HIS TEASING HAD ITS USUAL EDGE.
...I'M KIDDING.
I'LL LEAVE YOU BE.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SO STUBBORN.
...I WAS LIKE THAT.
THERE'S ONLY ONE ANSWER.
UNTIL I HAD YOU.
SHUT IT!
TAKE CARE OF IT, OKAY JIN?
SURE.

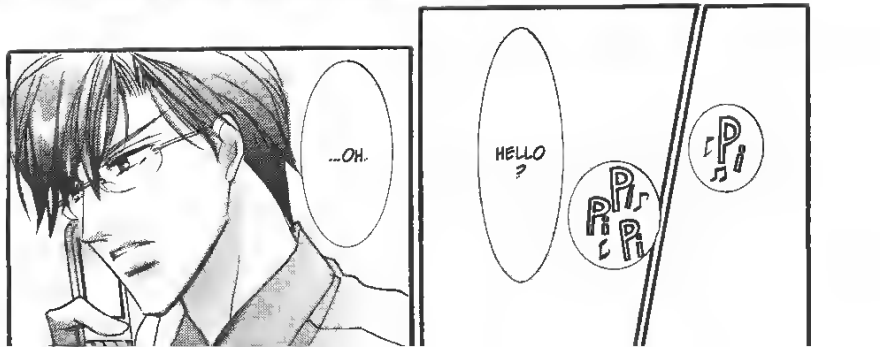
I NEED TO...
I WANT TO COOL MY HEAD A BIT.
SNAP
...DUMPED AGAIN.
LATELY HE'S BEEN A LITTLE ...
WELL, HE'S ALWAYS BEEN CURT...
BUT IT'S LIKE HE'S INTENTIONALLY BUILDING A WALL.
I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT.
...YOU SAW YAMASHIRO-KUN THE OTHER DAY, DIDN'T YOU?
HOW WAS HE THEN?
MAYBE SOMETHING HAPPENED.
...KOUSUKE,
I ASKED YOU NOT TO LISTEN IN ON MY CALLS.
I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME. I'M A SECRETARY, AFTER ALL.


OKU-...
...I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
IT'LL BE JUST THE TWO OF US.
I WANT TO LOOK INTO...
...THOSE COOL EYES OF YOURS ALL WEEKEND.
I HAVE TO WORK OVERTIME TONIGHT...
THEN HOW ABOUT THE WEEKEND? CAN YOU STAY OVER?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE SHARED A TWO DAY BREAK TOGETHER.
...I'M SORRY,
BUT I CAN'T THIS WEEKEND.
CHOOK
WAIT,
KEI-!
LATER, THEN.
YOU SHOULD HAVE A BREAK FOR YOURSELF.
REST ALONE ONCE IN A WHILE.

SORRY FOR CALLING YOU OUT LIKE THIS.
NOT AT ALL.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU PROPERLY.
I'M GLAD.
IF MY UNCLE HEARS THAT, HE'LL BE JEALOUS.

HUH?
MY UNCLE AND I ARE SOMEWHAT CLOSE IN AGE,
SO HE'S ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER ME LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER.
EVEN AS AN ADULT, HE SAID I'M SUITED TO SECRETARY WORK,
SO HE HAD ME COME WORK FOR HIM.
...YES, I'D HEARD.
DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT THE DIRECTOR IS MY UNCLE?
HE SAYS I'M GOOD AT WATCHING PEOPLE AND ADAPTING TO THEM.
I WONDER...
HA HA
THOUGH I DO ENJOY "WATCHING" PEOPLE.
...SO HOW DO YOU SEE ME?

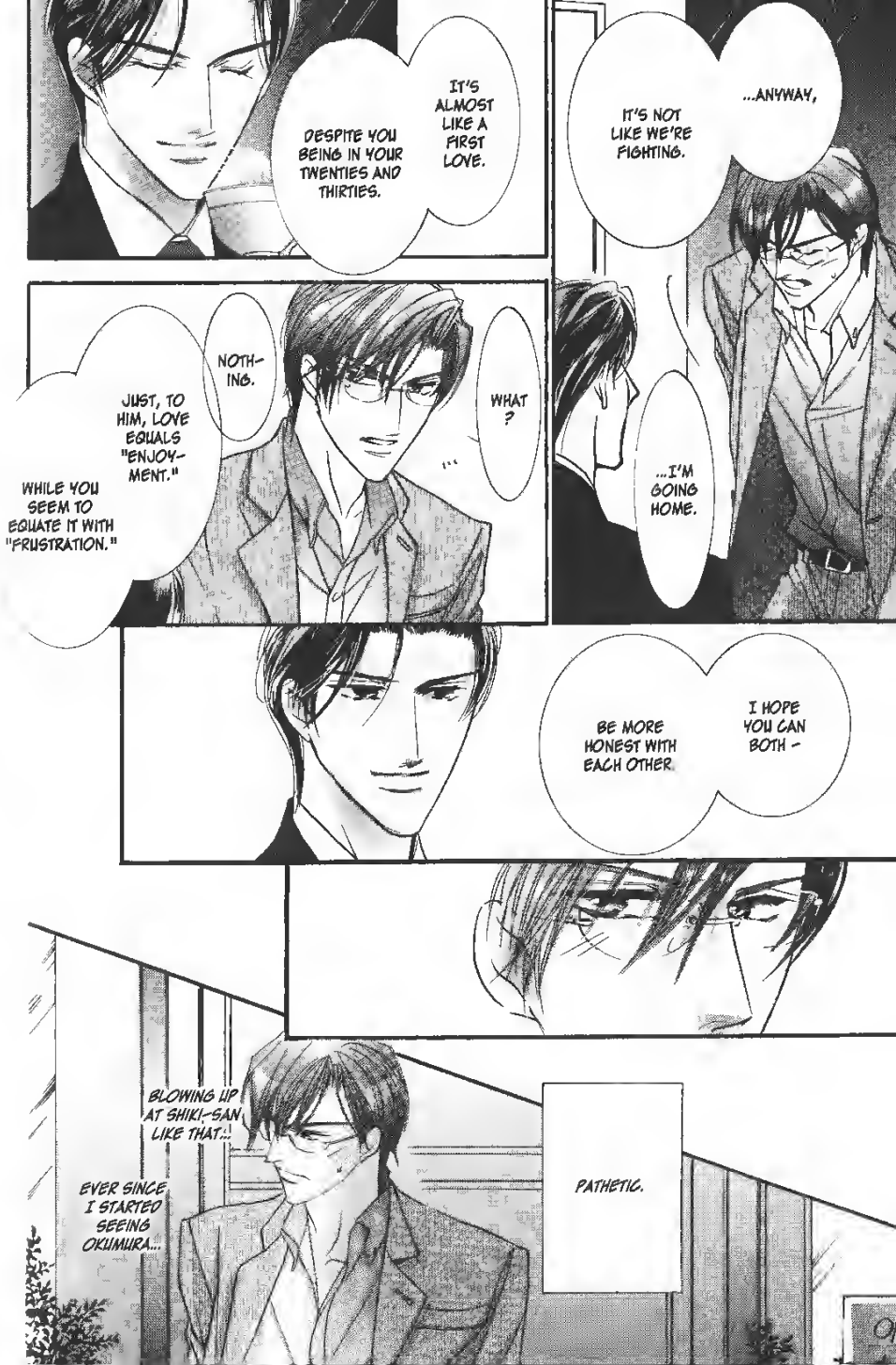
KNOCK KNOCK
DIRECTOR.
THE MARKETING DIVISION IS WAITING TO BEGIN THEIR MEETING.
YES, THANK YOU. YOU CAN GO, SHIKI.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T...
...CARE ABOUT ME AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT...
HOW ABOUT THE BUDGET?
YES, STARTING NEXT MAY...
BEEP
HRMM.


...OH.
HELLO?
PI PI PI PI PI

DON'T YOU AGREE?
MY UNCLE IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND. HIS MOOD IS ALWAYS OBVIOUS.
WHAT ...?
...I'M THE ONE THAT'S FALLING FOR HIM.
I DON'T WANT HIM TO SEE THAT!
HE'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF I CHANGED.
BUT THAT'S JUST WHAT HE WANTS!
TO YOU, MAYBE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM AT ALL.
HE ALSO SAID HE DOESN'T QUITE UNDERSTAND YOU.
...THOUGH I PERSONALLY THINK ANY OUTSIDER CAN SEE THAT.
HY
GASP

YOU CAN BE HONEST, I DON'T MIND.
SINCE I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT MYSELF.
WELL,
YOU HAVE STRONG IDEALS, AND YOU DON'T ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS.
YOU'RE THE TYPE THAT LIKES TO BE IN CONTROL OF A SITUATION.
...YOU'RE ALSO MY UNCLE'S LOVER.
...!
...EXACTLY WHY -
DID YOU ASK ME HERE TODAY?
MY UNCLE IS UPSET THAT...
...YOU'VE BEEN SO COLD TO HIM LATELY.
HUH?
IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THE LAST TIME.
YOU'VE DEPRESSED HIM ONCE BEFORE, NO?
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS

WHIRR
I JUST...
...DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MYSELF.
...
OKUMURA-SAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I GOT A MESSAGE FROM KOUSUKE,
SAYING I COULD MEET YOU HERE.
...!
GET IN.
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.

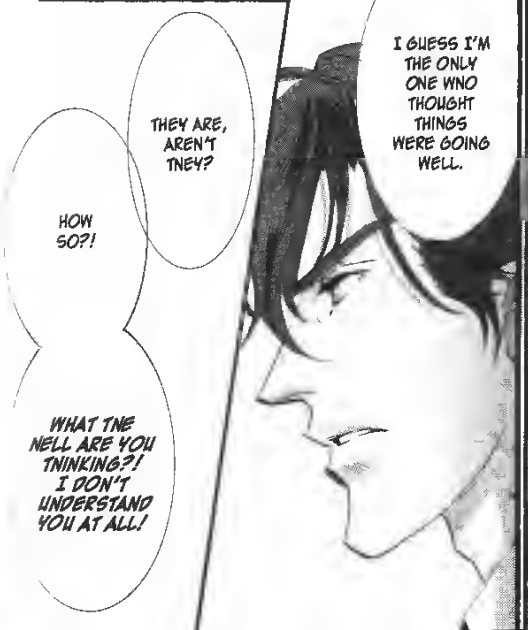

DESPITE YOU BEING IN YOUR TWENTIES AND THIRTIES.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A FIRST LOVE.
...ANYWAY,
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING.
...I'M GOING HOME.
WHILE YOU SEEM TO EQUATE IT WITH "FRUSTRATION."
JUST, TO HIM, LOVE EQUALS "ENJOY-MENT."
NOTH-ING.
WHAT ?
...
I HOPE YOU CAN BOTH -
BE MORE HONEST WITH EACH OTHER.
BLOWING UP AT SHIKI-SAN LIKE THAT...!
EVER SINCE I STARTED SEEING OKUMURA...
PATHETIC.

IS THAT SO?
YOU SAID YOU LIKED THAT I DIDN'T GIVE IN TO YOU, BUT I GUESS YOU PREFER ME MEEK AFTER ALL.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THAT NOW!
YOU'RE SO DIFFICULT!
FINE, ENOUGH THEN!
IT'S NOT WORTH IT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
...DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD WORK TONIGHT.
YOU COULD MEET WITH HIM BUT NOT ME, HM?
HE TRICKED ME...!

...DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME.
IS THERE SOME REASON YOU CAN'T, OR WON'T, SEE ME?
...NOT REALLY...


I GUESS I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING WELL.
THEY ARE, AREN'T THEY?
HOW SO?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU THINKING?! I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU AT ALL!

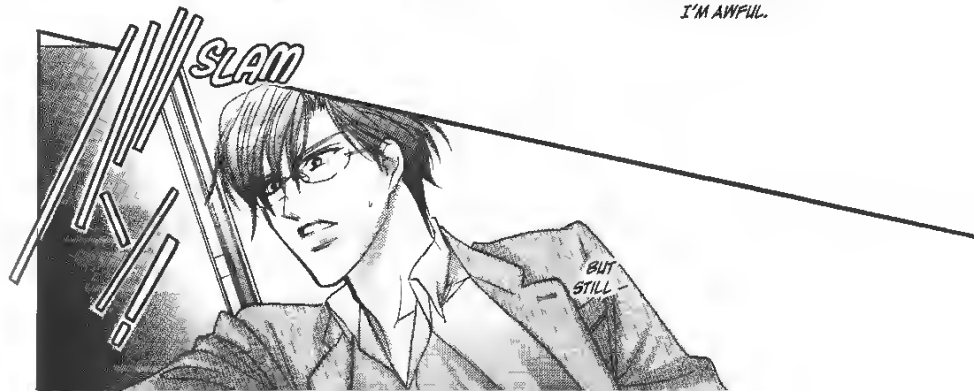
FLASH
...
...
...

...OH,
JIN...?
OKUMURA-SAN'S CHAIR IS FINISHED. ABOUT THE DELIVERY...
...?
OKUMURA-SAN...?!
BEEP
HELLO ...!
KEI? IT'S ME.
KEI,
IS THIS A BAD TIME?
...HELLO?
...BUT STILL,
THERE ARE TIMES YOU HAVE TO BE HONEST.
OTHERWISE, YOU MIGHT LOSE...
...SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU.
... YOU KNOW, JIN,
I CAN'T BE HONEST AFTER ALL.
IT'S FRUS-TRATING ...
AND FRIGHT-ENING ...

401
YAMASH
I DIDN'T KNOW.
I NEVER KNEW THERE WAS A PART OF ME THAT COULD CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON.
SLIDE
WHY DID IT COME TO THIS?
THE THOUGHT THAT OKUMURA MIGHT HATE ME NOW SCARES ME SO MUCH I CAN HARDLY BARE IT.
...WHAT EXACTLY DO I WANT?
I JUST...
DO I REALLY...
♪Pi
♪PiPi

I LOVE OKUMURA.

HE MUST THINK I'M AWFUL.



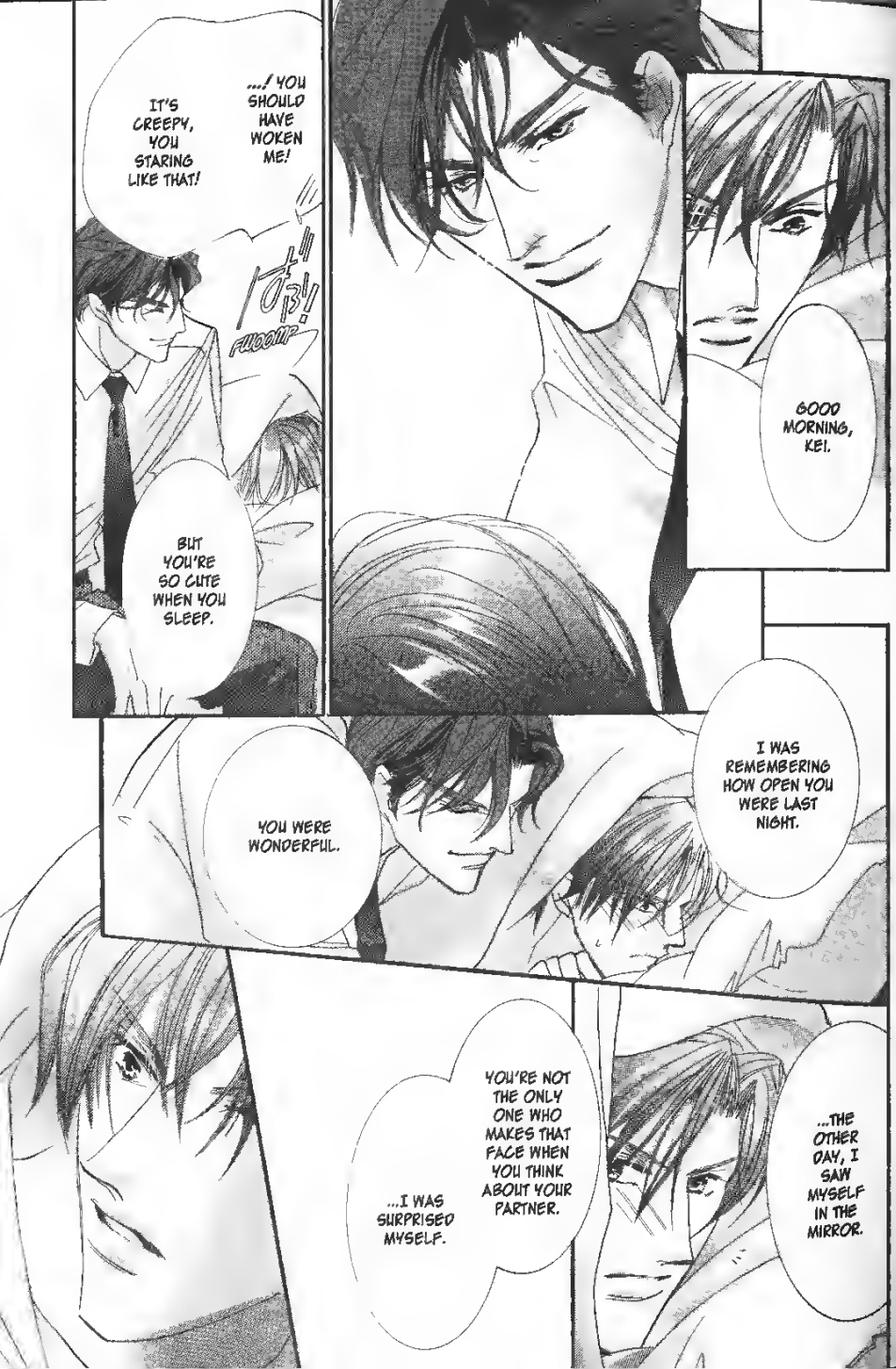
LET'S TALK IT OVER...
THUD
!
H...
IT'S NOT THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU...!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT MADE ME FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU...!
STOP FOOLING AROUND!
WHAT ...?
...HA...
HA HA HA...! YOU...
YOU'RE SO DAMN STUBBORN AND UNPREDICTABLE!
YOU REALLY ...!
...AND COOL.
AND BEAUTIFUL.
...I JUST NEEDED TO CALM MYSELF DOWN FOR A WHILE...!
THAT'S WHY I WAS SCARED TO SEE YOU.
YOU MIGHT HATE ME FOR IT.
THERE'S ANOTHER SIDE OF ME I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...
...EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO BE STUBBORN WITH!
BUT YOU SAID YOU LIKE ME STUBBORN AND CURT.
I MAKE THIS SWEET, MELTY FACE.
EVERYONE TOLD ME THAT WHEN I THINK OF YOU,

LET ME TAKE YOUR TIE OFF...
PLEASE ...
COME INSIDE.
... MMM ...
KISS
NO.
LET ME...
MM...
HAAH
...NN.
KISS

I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TALENTED MAN,
BUT YOU'RE REALLY A CHILD.
WHAT ...?!
I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.
...SOMETIMES IT'S SCARY.
HOW CAN I BE SO ENGROSSED IN YOU?
YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILTY FOR IT. FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE I'VE FELT THIS WAY FOR.
I'M HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT I WAHT.

...HAAH...
NO...
AH...!
AH...!
SHUDDER
OKUMURA-SAN ...!
HOW THICK.
IS IT BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER LATELY?
AH...
TURN...
...OVER...

SLIP
SLOWLY ...
RIGHT?
...VERY GOOD.
FLINCH
...NN.
SLIDE
...HAAH ...!
NN, AH...
YOU'RE CUTE -
LIKE THIS.


...! YOU SHOULD HAVE WOKEN ME!
IT'S CREEPY, YOU STARING LIKE THAT!
FUCCHP
BUT YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU SLEEP.
GOOD MORNING, KEI.
I WAS REMEMBERING HOW OPEN YOU WERE LAST NIGHT.
YOU WERE WONDERFUL.
...I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO MAKES THAT FACE WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR PARTNER.
...THE OTHER DAY, I SAW MYSELF IN THE MIRROR.

MNN...
AHH...!
AH...

恋愛操作 LOVE CONTROL コントロール

LOVE CONTROL II / END

虹の傍ら、君の隣り
にじのかたわら、きみのとなり
NEAR THE RAINBOW, AND YOU

GOKOU
PLEASE TO MEET YOU ALL
I AM SENO, IN CHARGE OF THE PLANNING DIVISION.
FOR STARTERS, I'D LIKE YOU TO PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE DATA GATHERED BY OUR SALES DEPARTMENT.
ACCORDING TO THEIR ANALYSIS..
WELL DONE AS ALWAYS, SENO-KUN.
SALES DEPARTERMENT
FOREIGN INDUSTRIES PLANNING
営業一
海外事業 企画
THE DIRECTOR PRAISED YOU AS WELL
AS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THIS NEW SYSTEM,
WE CAN GET PLENTY OF FINANCING FROM TACHIBANA BANK
THANK YOU.
I'M SURE YOU'LL DO FINE

THE MANAGER SEEMS TO REALLY LIKE YOU
YOU'RE LUCKY
OH! COULD IT BE?
YOU'RE AFTER HIS DAUGHTER? A GOLD DIGGER, HUH?
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, SENO-KUN
YOU, TOO, CHIEF.
LEAVE IT TO US.
THERE HE GOES WITH THE SAME OLD SARCASM ASSAULT.
HE ALWAYS DOES THIS TO THE SECTION HEADS.
BUT AGAINST CHIEF SENO...
...EXCUSE ME.
I'S WORK-RELATED
PI PI PI
YOU LOST YOUR PARENTS EARLY, HUH?
THEY SAY KIDS THAT STRUGGLE FROM A YOUNG AGE BECOME HUNGRY FOR SUCCESS...

I AM BUSY.
WASTE YOUR TIME ON SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT...?!
SEE?
CHIEF SENO IS SCAAARY.
...WHAT A PATHETIC MAN.
ALL LIES AND SARCASM.
AN EMAIL.
LIVING OFF FLATTERY AND THE TATENT OF OTHERS.
THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN DEPEND ON...
...IS YOURSELF
...?
WHAT IS THIS? JUNK MAIL?
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ENGLISH ACCOUNT
WHAT-EVER
I'LL ERASE IT...
受信BOX(1/1)
FIND ME
僕を見つけて
END...
戻る
FIND ME

僕を見つけてください
僕を見つけてください。虹の傍にいるのに僕は独りです。
……END……
FIND ME PLEASE FIND ME. I'M AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW.
BEEP
ピ
_HMPH
A RAINBOW AT NIGHT...
WHAT AN ELEGANT PLACE.
WOW
THE FOUNTAIN'S LIGHTING UP.
IT'S PRETTY, ISN'T IT? LIKE A RAINBOW.

RAINBOW?
THESE DAYS, IT STANDS OUT EVEN MORE TO HAVE PLAIN BLACK HAIR.
IT'S A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A HIGH SCHOOL KID

MET HIM BEFORE...? NO, MAYBE HE JUST LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE...?
THOSE EYES OF HIS...
...HAVE I...
...YES?
WHAT'S UP, OLD TIMER?
PLEASE FIND ME. I MAT THE END OF THE RAINBOW

...HIS PERSONALITY DOESN'T MATCH HIS FACE.
HEY, IS "THIS" A PRANK OF YOURS?
HUH ?
AHH!!!
I SENT OUT A BUNCH TO THAT BUILDING'S EMAIL, STARTING WITH "ICHIRO."
DOWN TO THE FIFTH ...? ARE YOU GORO-SAN?
GOKOU
..I'M "SHIRO" SHIRO SENO
I WORK THERE, AND THIS EMAIL IS JUST FOR -
IS THAT THE MESSAGE I SENT OUT TO SOME RANDOM ADDRESS JUST FOR FUN?!
SERIOUSLY ?!
HMMM.

...IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
...SINCE SOMEONE SMILE AT ME LIKE THAT.
I SEE.
HA HA
WHAT A - COINCIDENCE
IT'S KIND OF COOL
...SO?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALONE?
HUH...?
ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND YOURSELF A SUGAR DADDY?
BLUSH
...?
...D-DON'T BE STUPID!
I...I BET THAT'S THE ONLY REASON YOU CAME OVER HERE YOURSELF.
SO WHAT IF IT WAS?

...WHATEVER THE CASE...
HOTEL
2809
DRIP
I MUST BE AN IDIOT
SOMEWHERE PRIVATE
CLICK
THAT'S FINE
TAKE ME WITH YOU

I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE DOING THIS
IT'S NOT LIKE ME TO -
RISE TO A CHALLENGE LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN TEASING A KID?
CREAK
IT'S JUST BECAUSE...
...HE LOOKS FAMILIAR..

SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
THE WALLET PLEASE
YUU KOHARA. FRESHMAN AT KYOUIN ACADEMY?
WHY IS A SON OF A GOOD FAMILY WHORING AND STEALING?
YOU KNOW MY NAME AND WORK-PLACE
IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I LEARN THE SAME
!OW!
LET GO!
WHAT ARE YOU -!
...IS THAT SO?
I WAS JUST GOING TO LET IT DROP!
I WAS GOING TO LET YOU OFF EASY,
BUT NOW I HAVE TO SCOLD YOU.
BUT YOU WERE THE ONE THAT BROUGHT UP A DATE!
I JUST WANTED TO GET BACK AT YOU FOR MAKING FUN OF ME!

STOP IT!
LET GO! DON'T TOUCH ME...!
AH!
CLINK
WHAM
?!
WHAT ...?!
NO... I DON'T WANT THIS!
LIAR
WOULD YOU GET LIKE THIS IF THAT WERE TRUE...?
SHO -
AH !
AHH ...!

SLAM
!!
NEXT TIME YOU PLAY PRANKS, DON'T UNDERESTIMATE YOUR -
...THAT WAS FAST
TSK...!
YOU PERVERTED GEEZER!
AND TO THINK I WAS A LITTLE GLAD THAT YOU SHOWED UP
I'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS!
DON'T YOU FORGET!
SLAM

I KNEW HE WASN'T LOOKING FOR SOME COMPENSATED DATING.
IF HE HAD BEEN, THERE ARE A HUNDRED OTHER METHODS HE COULD HAVE USED
...I EVEN KNEW IT.
HOW IMMATURE OF ME
THIS ISN'T LIKE ME AT ALL...
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T MEEN FOR ANYONE TO SEE THAT EMAIL ...
—
RAINBOW, HUH—

WILL YOU TAKE THIS FILE TO THE SECOND FLOOR?
I'LL HANDLE THE REST.
I CAN HELP YOU PROCESS THE DATA IF YOU NEED ME.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT MYSELF.
PURURU
CLICK
YES?
A RELATIVE IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
RELATIVE? BUT I DON'T HAVE..
NEVER MIND, I'M COMING DOWN.
WHAT IS THIS NOW?
HE'S WAITING AT THE SOFA.
BUT NO ONE'S THERE...

BINGO! I FIGURED YOU WORKED SATUDAYS, TOO
YOU'RE A WORKAHOLIC, SENO-SAN.
...!
...WELL, WELL.
4-1
...BESIDES...
I'M YOUR TYPE, RIGHT?
I'M NOT A KID! THE NAME'S YUU KOUBARA!
I TOLD YOU I'D GET YOU BACK!
IT'S THE PRANK KID. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

...HM?
YOU CALLED IT A "SCOLDING",
BUT THE TRUTH IS YOU FELL FOR ME AT FIST SIGHT!
I WASN'T TRIPPING OR SOMETHING.
POINT!
YOU'RE THE ONE THAT TOOK A LIKING TO ME!
AND I'M GOING TO KEEP PESTERING YOU UNTIL YOU ADMIT IT AND APOLOGIZE!!!
WOLF
HUFF!
AH HA HA HA HA!
WH -
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?!

I DON'T HAVE WORK THIS AFTERNOON
I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH YOU!
DO AS YOU PLEASE.
...IN THAT CASE,
I'LL HAVE TO REALLY EMBARRASS YOU
AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK.

HERE WE GO
THERE ARE A PLENTY OF PEOPLE HERE ON A SATURDAY AFTER-NOON.
AS AN OLD MAN IN A SUIT, AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED TO BE HERE.
AREN'T YOU EM-BARRASSED FOR HAVING DRAGGED ME HERE?
COME ON!
LET'S FIND A RIDE!
H-HEY!
HURRY UP! WE'VE GOT MORE TO GO!
I'LL ADMIT, THE MERRY-GO-ROUND WAS A LITTLE...
...ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T BRING ME HERE JUST TO HAVE FUN YOURSELF?

THIS DATE IS ABOUT BRINGING YOU "SHAME"!
BUT THEN NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU
ERR...
HEY, LET'S RIDE THAT.
KO'ZING!
—SO WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! PUT ME DOWN!
WAHH, KIDNAPPER!
BE QUIET
TWO ADULTS PLEASE.
のりもの券売機
TICKET BOOTH
35
I SAID NO!
DON'T YOU DARE SWAY IT!
WE HAVE TO RIDE ALL THE RIDES
LIFT

GASP
WHEN I WAS A KID I RODE IT..
AND IT STALLED AT THE VERY TOP...
I WAS TRAUMA-TIZED
GRIP
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE THIS SCARED
I...I CAN'T HANDLE THE FERRIS WHEEL..
SHOVE
WHY AM I SITTING NEXT TO YOU ANYWAY?
ROCK
!!!
FINE THEN.
HEH!
UHH...
JUST BE QUIET AND HOLD ON.
I WON'T LEAVE YOU

SHE'S WAVING TO YOU.
KID WAS SCARED OF ME
...AT YOU.
...HEY, LOOK DOWN.
THERE'S A KID WAVING.
I RODE WITH MY MOTHER ONE BEFORE.
IT WAS FUN... BEFORE THAT ONE TRIP.
...SHE'S WITH HER MOTHER, HUH?
...?
...I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
SO I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
HERE.

...CANDY?
I GOT IT AT THE ENTRANCE AS PART OF SOME GIVE-AWAY
...YOU CAN HAVE IT
NO THANKS
YOU EAT IT
YOU'RE WEIRD SOMETIMES
.. BUT JUST NOW,
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE MISSING SOMETHING
SOME-TIME YOU LOOK...
LIKE-
HUNG-RY.
..
AS IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH OF SOMETHING
SO I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD EAT SOMETHING
HEH

GIVE ME BACK MY CANDY!
...DAMN, AND I WAS TRYING TO BE NICE!
WH-WHAT?!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HUNGRY, HM? SO YOU GIVE ME SWEETS?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT
YOU SURE ARE AMUSING
...THAT EMAIL.
IF YOU WEREN'T TRYING TO HOOK UP,
WHAT WAS IT FOR?
...JUST KILLING TIME...
WHO CARES ANYWAY?
DON'T BE SILLY. YOU'RE TAKING REVENGE ON ME, RIGHT? I DESERVE TO KNOW WHY.
...I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ALONE...
AND I DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME...

EVEN AMONG ALL THOSE PEOPLE...
I STILL FELT ALONE
JUST FORGET IT!
WHY AM I TALKING TO YOU ANYWAY?
TODAY'S MY CHANCE TO EMBARRASS YOU
YOU MADE FUN OF ME,
DID THOSE THINGS
DAMN IT, AM I GOING CRAZY?
...IT'S YOUR FAULT -
FOR APPROACHING ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

YUU
...
..H-
HUH?
SE -
CALL
ME
SHIRO
LET-
GO-
STO-
SHI-

CLENCH
キュ
HELLO?
SHALL WE GET SOMETHING TO EAT?
THIS LATE ALREADY ?

ARE YOU KIND ?
ARE YOU... SCARY?
ARE YOU TEASING ME?
...I DON'T
UNDER-STAND YOU...
FLASH
HEY
I GONNA MAKE YOU-
APOLOGIZE FOR THAT KISS, TOO!

営業一課
海外事業 企画係
SALES DEPARTMENT
FOREIGN INDUSTRIES
PLANNING
CHATTER
RRR
YES, SALES DEPARTMENT
THREE COPIES PLEASE
"I'LL MAKE YOU GO OUT WITH ME!"
HE'S LAUGHING?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE!
NO WAY
I GUESS I'M...
...A LITTLE STRANGE, TOO...
SENO-KUN

HM?
ONE OF THE MANAGERS SAW YOU IN THE LOBBY LAST WEEK
YES?
IS IT TRUE YOU WERE WITH THE SON OF TACHIBANA BANK'S PRESIDENT, MR. KOUBARA?
HOLD IT.
KOUBARA...
PRESIDENT... JUNZOU KOUBARA? FROM OUR MAIN BANK?
THE PRESIDENT IS ON HIS SECOND MARRIAGE,
AND I HEAR HE GETS INTO DISPUTES WITH HIS CHILDREN REGULARLY
SOH OR NOT, THERE'S PROPRIETY TO THINK ABOUT...
WHICH IS WHY HE KEEPS...
HIS STEP-SON FROM THE PUBLIC EYE
WE'VE LOANED A LOT OF MONEY FROM THAT BANK...
SO DON'T GO ENDANGERING US WITH YOUR NONSENSE.
DON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE THAT I MIGHT END UP RESPONSIBLE FOR!

"I DON'T WANT TO GO HOME."
...I SEE
WHAT DREW ME TO HIM WAS...
...HOW SIMILAR WE SEEM.
...HAVE I REALLY STARTED DEVELOPING "INAPPROPRIATE" FEELINGS FOR HIM?
RUSTLE
カサ!
...NO.
I...
THAT'S NOT ALL...
SENO-SAN
WAIT
...YUU.

WELL NOW.
WHAT SHALL WE DO TONIGHT?
...HAVE YOU BEEN HERE ALL ALONG?
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD
ACHOO!
I'M NOT THAT WEAK...
THERE, SEE?
.. IS IT TRUE ..
THAT YOU'RE THE SON OF TACHIBANA BANK'S PRESIDENT KOUBARA?
WELL, WHAT-EVER..
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE..
HA HA
..WHA...?! HOW DID YOU -
WE USE TACHIBANA AS OUR MAIN BANK.
ONE OF MY SUPERIORS RECOGNIZED YOU
SO, DID HE TELL YOU ALL ABOUT ME?
MY MOTHER USED TO BE MAID IN THE TACHIBANA HOUSE
I WAS JUST A TAG-ALONG.

IT WAS PRETTY ROUGH,
BETWEEN MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHERS
I WAS ON MY OWN.
WHEN I SENT THAT EMAIL,
AND YOU SHOWED UP...
I THOUGHT, "HEY, I'M NOT ALONE."
...I WAS RELIEVED.
...RAIN-BOW...
HUH...?
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THE OLD APARTMENT BUILDING I LIVE IN...
HAD A SMALL GARDEN...
WHERE SUN-FLOWERS BLOOMED IN THE SUMMER.
NO ONE WAS LOOKING AFTER THEM. SO I WOULD WATER THEM.
AND IN THE WATER, I'D ALWAYS SEE A LITTLE RAINBOW JUST FOR ME

I DON'T HAVE A FATHER.
MY MOTHER DISAPPEARED WHEN I WAS NINE.
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER NOW— I ALWAYS DID ALL RIGHT BY MYSELF
WHEN I FIST SAW YOU
YOU REMINDED ME OF MYSELFT WHEN I WAS A LITTLE.
...IS THAT WHY..
YOU AP-PROACHED ME?
YOU WERE TRYING TO COMFORT ME?
YUU ...?
—I'M GOING HOME.

THIS IS FAR ENOUGH..
IF MY MOTHER SEES YOU...
YUU?!
ARE YOU HOME?
I ALWAYS TELL YOU TO COME HOME BY TEN..
YOUR FATHER MIGHT BE OUT TONIGHT, BUT..
MY NAME IS SENO I'M FROM SOKOU CORP
I'VE DONE BUSINESS WITH TACHIBANA BANK
? AND YOU ARE?
YUU-KUN WAS SUFFERING FROM A BIT OF ANEMIA NEAR OUR BUILDING
I HAPPENED ACROSS HIM,
AND OFFERED TO ESCORT HIM HOME
WHAT ...?
MY, HOW KIND OF YOU...
UM...

ABOUT THE OTHERS AT YOUR COMPANY..
I'D LIKE TO KEEP THIS FROM MY HUSBAND, IF POSSIBLE...
..IT'S ALL RIGHT
I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO ESCORT HIM NO ONE ELSE NOTICED
THUMP
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU SHOULD GET HIM WARMED UP.
HE'S BEEN CHILLED AFTER STAYING OUTSIDE SO LONG
YES... YOU'RE RIGHT
FOR-GIVE ME
FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO ASK YOU IN
YUU, HURRY INSIDE NOW
MA AM THE HONEY
..BUT
IT'S ALL RIGHT
HEH!
AND YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME
I EVEN TRIED TO RUN AWAY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
I GUESS SHE'S NOT A LIAR BUT
MORE WORRIED ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD THAN YOUR KID, HUH?

IT'S ANNOYING, BEING DEPRESSED ALL THE TIME
HA HA HA
THOUGH MAYBE I REALIZED THAT TOO LATE?
..I SHOULD
...STOP SULKING, TOO
I KNOW SHE JUST WANTS
...ALL OF US TO BE HAPPY
...THAT'S RIGHT
YOU CAN STOP, TOO
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF, DID YOU?
BUT YOU DID
YOU MUST HAVE FELT SORRY FOR ME
SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE A LITTLE
...NICE. BUT ONLY VERY LITTLE

...ESPECIALLY FROM YOU
BECAUSE I-
BUT,
I DON'T WANT SYMPATHY
YUU..
BECAUSE I'M SO GENEROUS!
I FORGIVE YOU
BY THE WAY,
I HATE -
THE WORD "SYMPATHY"
I HATE GIVING OR RECEIVING IT.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
..YOU WERE TRYING TO MAKE ME ADMIT..
..THAT I FELL FOR YOU AT FIST SIGHT RIGHT?

IF SO, STAY WITH ME -
UNTIL YOU CAN MAKE ME SAY IT
IF YOU DON'T STAY WITH ME, I'LL STARVE.
BESIDES,
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER GIVEN ME CANDY

NEAR THE RAINBOW, AND YOU / END

虹の傍ら、君の隣り

NEAR THE RAINBOW, AND YOU

I'M NOT.
I WAS ONLY SURPRISED TO SEE YOU ANOTHER NOTCH HIGHER ON THE SHOW OFF SCALE.
IF YOU'RE THAT TAKEN BY THEM.
MAYBE I'LL WEAR THEM MORE,
I DON'T LIKE GETTING TOO MUCH SUN.
IT'S THESE EYES
SHOW OFF SCALE ...?
...THERE'S NO HELPING THE WEATHER.
BUT IT IS TOO BAD THAT -
THEY HIDE YOUR FACE.
HM... YOU'RE RIGHT.

Early Summer

アーリー サマー

...
WELL?
LET'S GO.
WHETHER YOU'RE WEARING THESE OR NOT...
YOU CAN NEVER...
...TAKE YOUR EYES OFF ME.

...THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
IT DOES MAKE ME A LITTLE LONELY AS WELL.
SINCE THEY HIDE MY COMPANION'S LOVELY EYES.
BUT THEY DO HAVE THEIR PERKS.
...?
I CAN BE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY LIKE THIS,
WITHOUT ANYONE ELSE NOTICING.
WATCHING ONLY YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HEH!

EXTRAS

HELLO, AND PLEASED TO MEET YOU. THIS IS HASUKAWA. THE MAIN CHARACTERS THIS TIME WERE ONES I'D USED AS SIDE CHARACTERS BEFORE. I TRY TO DO THIS BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MANY CHANCES TO WRITE ABOUT THE SAME CHARACTERS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE KIDS THAT ARE SO SILLY YOU FIND THEM CUTE (LAUGH).

WHEN I REALIZED "I DIDN'T DRAW THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN ANY KIND OF SUMMER CLOTHING..." I DECIDED TO DRAW THEM IN A SUMMER SHOT. MY IDEA WAS TO MAKE OKUMURA "SO EMBARRASSED HE COULD JUST PASS OUT" BUT HE ENDED UP KIND OF THE SAME. BUT IF YOU LIKED IT AT LEAST A LITTLE, I'M VERY HAPPY.

TO MY EDITORS - YOU ALWAYS TAKE SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME! I LOOK FORWARD TO ACCEPTING YOUR GUIDANCE IN THE FUTURE. TO MY PUBLISHER - THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF ALL THE UNEXPECTED THINGS.

AND TO MY READERS - THANK YOU SO MUCH! I PLAN TO CONTINUE USING THESE CHARACTERS, AND SOME OF THEIR SIDE CHARACTERS, IN THE FUTURE. I'LL BE WORKING HARD, SO I HOPE YOU'LL CONTINUE READING.

MAY OUR PATHS CROSS AGAIN,

2006, AUTUMN, AI HASUKAWA

NOTH-
ING,
JUST THAT IT REALLY IS INTERESTING, NOT KNOWING WHERE SOMEONE IS LOOKING.
WHAT IS IT?
I WISH I COULD SEE THAT EMBARRASSED FACE OF YOURS.
Ha?!

COME ON, KEI.
...NO.
IF NOT, JUST TAKE THE GLASSES OFF.
REALLY? YOUR CHEEKS LOOK A LITTLE FLUSHED.
I'M NOT EMBARRASSED!
LOWER YOUR VOICE!

Early Summer/END